Volume 12, Issue 23

SEE SPECIAL INSERT INSIDE!

TheWindhamEagle.com

Love of flying ignites dream for WHS graduate

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITERS

It's been said that great pilots are made and not born and that those who complete flight training reach their goal through constant practice and experience. Windham High School 2024 graduate Conner Vail may indeed be one of those individuals.

While other graduates may be looking to secure summer employment, Vail, 18, has been working as an aviation line service technician for MAC Air Group in Portland maintaining fueling systems for aircraft. He's also racked up 33 hours of the required 40 hours for pilot training and hopes to obtain his pilot's license within the next year.

"My plan following high school is to continue my flight training and become a professional pilot alongside working in aviation," Vail said. "I plan on taking online classes toward a bachelor's degree once I am settled in a flying job."

His passion for flight is nothing new. Vail said he recently looked at a

note he wrote while in fourth grade about what he wanted to do when he grew up.

"I wrote that someday I wanted to pilot a Boeing 777 aircraft," he said. "This is something I've really wanted to do for a while and flying professionally has been a longtime dream of mine."

Conner's family, including his mother Kathleen, his father Paul, and his older brother Hunter have come to terms with his desire to fly.

"I think my mom was pretty scared at first, but she's gotten better with it over time," Vail said. "They all have accepted that flying is what I really want."

Wanting to be close to aviation played a part in Vail applying to work with MAC Air Group after school during his senior year of high school.

"I have a passion that is hard to come across nowadays and I do everything I can to be around it," he said. "My goals in life are unlike oth-

Windham High 2024 graduate Conner Vail is working to obtain his pilot's license and would like to become a commercial airline pilot. He gave up playing sports in his senior year to work for an aviation company in Portland. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

> ers and it seems to make me stand out from the rest of my classmates. I gave up playing sports my senior year and that was hard, but I'm farther ahead now of reaching my goal. My job is fun for me so I have never really considered it a chore, but instead a break from the stress that life can

bring while in school."

As far as academics in high school go, Vail says he just tried to stay on track, focusing on his future dreams and giving his best effort always.

June 7, 2024

"My greatest strength as a student is my ability to think differently → see GRADUATE Page 12

Raymond Beautification Committee kicks off season

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITERS

Most anyone traveling through Raymond via Route 302 is certain to notice the colorful gardens and planters scattered throughout the town. The town is fortunate to have a tireless group of volunteers leading the charge to spruce up the community.

The Raymond Beautification Committee coordinates the work and meets once weekly to plant and perform maintenance. Residents may notice these pops of color in public areas throughout Raymond, including the Route 302 business corridor, Raymond Village Library, Raymond Town Office, Veteran's Memorial its yearly fundraising letter, which was posted on various sites and mailed to some residents. "Plant prices are higher every year and Beautification the volunteers need some financial help to keep Raymond blooming with colorful annuals and bulbs." Dodson said in the letter, "Most funding for plants and bulbs comes from donations, but the town



with the assistance of Public Works Director Nathan White stepping in to water the gardens when possible.

"The following winter, Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Director Mike McClellan was talking to Raymond Town Manager Don Willard about what the needs are within the community. Together they decided that something needed to be done about the new unmaintained 70-plus garden areas along Route 302. They had seen us out there working and so Mike contacted me, and we pulled together a committee," said Dodson. "The volunteer work started in an organized fashion early that spring, and we were putting in over 600 hours those first several summers. The town hired Dick Sanborn to mulch the gardens after we had weeded them, but it was a long process to get the out-of-control gardens back to where they had started the year before." Public works employee Don Mc-Clellan has been part of the effort for the past 12 PRSRT STD years, providing U.S. POSTAGE heavy labor and PAID debris removal TIME4PUBLISHING in addition to his regular rewww.TheWindhamEagle.con sponsibilities Local -> see RAYMOND **Postal Customer** Page 10

Park, as well as multiple planters located throughout the town.

Volunteers began work for the 2024 season about a week ago. Projects include planning, planting, and weeding. The group is small but mighty.

Raymond Beautification Committee co-chair Sharon Dodson said that support and volunteers are always welcome.

"We have from one to three volunteers at a time usually and meet for two to four hours on Friday mornings. We do weeding, planting, and deadheading during that time," said Dodson.

The committee recently published

will help if we don't get enough."

Aside from financial help, the group would like to see volunteer numbers increase. This could be a great opportunity

a great opportunity for students in need

of volunteer hours, church or scout groups, retirees, or anyone interested in the visual appeal of our town – no experience required.

"Beautification volunteers usually meet at the Veterans Memorial Park on Friday mornings. We work more often during the planting season. People can also volunteer on their

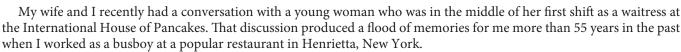
Members of the Raymond Beautification Committee work on a project planting flowers at Raymond Veterans Park on Route 302 in Raymond. COURTESY PHOTO

own if our schedule doesn't work for them," said Dodson.

The Raymond Beautification Committee started in 2003 following the completion of the Route 302 improvements project. Dodson said that there was no plan for garden maintenance, so she and resident Donna Johnson started weeding the areas

June 7, 2024

Welcome to the working world



Starting my sophomore year of high school, my father suggested that it was time that I got a "real job" and give up my newspaper delivery route, which I had been doing since we moved to a new neighborhood when I was starting out in eighth grade. I loved being a paperboy and reading the latest news hot off the press, but reluctantly I agreed to find another job that could possibly pay me more than the \$24 a month I was earning at that time.

I applied for a clerk position at Hadlock's House of Paints, scooping ice cream at Meisenzahl Dairy, and pumping gasoline at Eddie's Sunoco Station. Because of a lack of experience, being a few months shy of my 15th birthday and not having a driver's license, I felt I was doomed no matter what employer I wanted to hire me.

Eventually a restaurant called The Cartwright Inn offered me a busboy job for \$1.60 per hour. My schedule would be on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, and for the lunch shift after church let out on Sundays. I was thrilled someone wanted to hire me, and my father said he was happy to drive me back and forth to my new job and pick me up when my shifts were over.



Page 2

JUNE 7 1692 – An earthquake strikes Port Royal, Jamaica, killing more than 1,000 people.

1712 – Pennsylvania's colonial assembly votes to ban the further importation of enslaved people.

1769 – Frontiersman Daniel Boone begins to explore what is now known as Kentucky.

1804 – The Lewis and Clark Expedition passes Moniteau **Creek at Manitou Bluffs** in Missouri on its historic exploration journey.

1912 – The U.S. Army tests the first machine gun mounted on an airplane.

1965 – Sony Corporation introduces its home video tape recorder, priced at \$995.

1972 – The Broadway musical "Grease" starring Barry Bostwick, Carole Demas, and Adrienne Barbeau, opens at the Broadhurst Theater in NYC.

1979 – Rock n' roll legend Chuck Berry is charged with income tax evasion by the Internal Revenue Service.

I got to wear a uniform consisting of a white shirt, black clip-on bowtie, black pants, red jacket, and black dress shoes and I couldn't wait for the training for my new job to start. My duties included removing used dishes and glasses from a table, placing them in a rubber tray and carrying them back to the kitchen for dishwashing. When asked, I would assist the dining room manager in setting up tables for a large party or retrieving a glass of milk from the kitchen for a customer that the waitress forgot.

After working a few shifts there though, the luster wore off for me. I didn't like having to stand during my entire shift. The uniform was hot and the stress of having to do everything so fast was mind-numbing. I found some of the waitresses and customers to be rude and the restaurant's management to have little patience or regard for how they treated staff members.

The best part of the job was always interacting with the other busboys, the cooks and the dishwashers, a few of whom I knew from school. One of those other busboys, Nick Vecchioli was my classmate, and a lifelong friend. Each time I would bring a tray of dirty dishes to the dishwasher in the kitchen, one of them would spray me with the hose used to clean the dishes with. It was always a welcome cooling blast, and it made me laugh each time he did that. In hindsight, that would take my mind off the hectic serving and table-cleaning chaos going on out in the dining room.

The restaurant also had a lobster tank and sometimes when things were slow on late Sunday mornings before the lunch crowd arrived, the busboys would extract a few lobsters from the tank and making sure no managers were around, we would stage makeshift lobster races.

After working there for a good chunk of the spring and into the summer, I was on duty on a Saturday afternoon when I learned that Randall Cartwright, the chair of the school board and owner of The Cartwright Inn, would be dining at the restaurant after his thoroughbred horse raced at the Finger Lakes Racetrack. Sure enough, Mr. Cartwright showed up all decked out in a white suit and string bowtie, resembling the outfit worn by Colonel Sanders.

After his meal, he walked back into the kitchen to have a cup of coffee. Paper coffee cups were contained in a Dixie-Cup type of dispenser and on occasion, some cook or dishwasher prankster would puncture the bottom of the cups with a knife. That was the case this day and I happened to be standing there in the kitchen when Randall Cartwright pulled down a cup, poured hot black coffee into it and proceeded to take a sip. Hot coffee dribbled all over his pristine white suit and I couldn't help but to laugh out loud.

He summoned me over and told me that I was fired and to leave the premises

immediately. I tried to explain that I wasn't the prankster, but he was embarrassed and did not relent. I had no change in my pocket to use the pay phone to call my father and had to sit on a parking curb waiting outside for more than three hours until he arrived to take me home.

My advice to teens seeking summer work is simple. Take each job seriously and it will be a launchpad for future success. < ~ *Ed Pierce*



How many different states have you lived in, and which one is your favorite?

"Just Maine." - Fi Brickel

"Two states, and I hope I am lucky enough to never leave Maine." – Janet Paul

"Just Maine. My favorite is not Maine." – Randy Pratt

'I've lived in Oregon, Colorado and Maine. My favorite is the one I'm living in at the time." – Julie Mallett

"Seven different states and two countries. Maine is by far the best." – Brian Butler

"One, the only one that will ever be called home, Maine." - Tommy Matthews

"Out of the five states, Florida was my favorite." - Stephen Signor

"Lived in five states and Colorado was my favorite." – Rose Tirrell Haigis

"Only three, Maine is the best **by far.**" – Rob Juergens

"Three: New York, Massachusetts and Maine ... hands down Maine is the best." Christopher Bowker

"Only two, Massachusetts and Maine. I'll never go back to Massachusetts, love Maine." – Ruthie Jackson

"Four states. Colorado was my favorite as the mountains were my backyard and a river flowing was my front yard!" – Morgan Peters

"New Jersey and Maine. No contest and been here eight years if you don't count college." – William D. Reiner

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Arnold Schwarzenegger

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"Nine, thanks to the Air Force. It's a tie between Maine and Florida." – Alfred Taylor

> "Three, Maine, Texas and North Dakota. No place like Maine!!!" – Julia F. Varney Cheney

"Seven. So far, I like Maine the best." - Denise MacDonald Levasseur

"Eleven and couldn't wait to get home to Maine." Hannah Bannon



Voters head to polls in primary election June 11

By Ed Pierce

For Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell, the upcoming primary voting on Tuesday, June 11 will be another election in her long career, but for her counterpart in Raymond, Melanie Fernald, it will the first time she has overseen an election as Raymond Town Clerk.

Sample ballots are available online

and there are several contested races in the primary, but for the most part, voting will be for registered voters by party affiliation. The ballots will also contain 34 different referendum items in Raymond and for voters to approve or disapprove the RSU 14

Windham. On the ballot for Democrats in

Windham, is U.S. Senate candidate David Allen Costello of Brunswick, and incumbent U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree of North Haven. State Senator Tim Nangle of Windham is running for re-election in District 26 and Doris A. Poland of Windham is



LIVING EACH

DAY TO THE

FULLEST?

seeking the Democratic nomination for State Representative in District 106 representing part of Windham. Susan G. Schwartz of Portland is seeking the Democratic nomination for Register of Probate. Incumbent Jane Pringle of Windham is seeking re-election for her District 107 seat representing part of Windham.

The Republican ballot for Windham includes U.S. Senate candidate

Demi Kouzounas of Saco and two candidates seeking the Republican nomination for U.S Representative, Andrew Piantidosi of Cape Elizabeth and Ronald C. Russell of Kennebunkport. Jerry Lynn Dewitt of New Gloucester is seeking the Republi-

can nomination for Register of Probate and Kenneth J. Cianchette of Windham is unopposed in a bid to unseat Democratic incumbent Tim Nangle for State Senator in District 26. Incumbent Barbara Bagshaw of Windham is seeking re-election for her District 106 seat representing part of Windham in the Maine House of Representatives. Mark Cooper of Windham is seeking the Republican District 107 nomination to represent part of Windham in the legislature.

In Raymond, Democrat Craig R. Messinger of Raymond is on the ballot for State Representative in District 86, while Rolf A. Olsen, Jr. is on the ballot as the Republican candidate for District 86 in the Maine House of Representatives. Incumbent Democrat Jessica Fay currently holds that seat but is term-limited and cannot run for that position this fall.

Democrat candidates also on the primary ballot in Raymond are Tim Nangle (State Senate District 26), Chellie Pingree (U.S. Representative), Susan G. Schwartz (Register of Probate), and David Allen Costello (U.S. Senate). Republican candidates also appearing on the ballot in Raymond are Demi Kouzounas (U.S. Senate), Jerry Lynn Dewitt (Register of Probate), Kenneth J. Cianchette (State Senate District 26) and Andrew Piantidosi and Ronald C. Russell (U.S. Representative).

Three candidates are on the bal-

lot to serve three-year terms on the Raymond Budget Finance Committee. They are Christopher S. Hansen, Clifford G. Small, and Donald L. Willard. Three seats on the committee are available.

Grace E.D. Leavitt of Raymond is the lone candidate seeking a threeyear term on the RSU 14 Board of Directors representing Raymond.

Two candidates are vying for a three-year term on the Raymond Board of Selectmen. Incumbent Joseph Bruno is seeking re-election and is opposed by Raymond Budget Finance Committee member and former Raymond Fire Chief Denis Morse.

Raymond voters will also determine the fate of 34 different referendum items as part of a modified town meeting. The item labeled "X" on the ballot asks voters to approve a bond of \$8.1 million to construct a new Public Works Facility. Select Board members and Budget Finance Committee members agree that a new facility is see **ELECTION** Page 9

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Raymond naturalization ceremony welcomes new U.S. citizens

By Nicole Levine STAFF WRITER

Gathered in front of students and family members at Raymond Elementary School, 16 individuals began their new journey as United States citizens on June 3.

RES students and faculty opened up the school gymnasium to the public to conduct a Naturalization Ceremony there, welcoming individuals from 13 different countries, as the Raymond community gathered together to celebrate them becoming American citizens.

The ceremony was led by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Officer Jeffery Hamm.

"One of the ways our country is beautiful is our diversity," Hamm said. "It offers a principal insight into how the United States is composed through its variety of backgrounds and cultures from around the globe. This concept only strengthens the meaning behind the ceremony."

As the event drew to a close, the participants took the Oath of Allegiance, pledging their allegiance to the United

States, officially earning their citizenship. Upon saying the final words of the oath, the audience erupted in applause. The new American citizens turned around toward their friends and family, with their smiles stretching ear to ear.

Hamm took the opportunity to also emphasize the importance of learning individual stories. Each one of the newly inducted citizens have their own unique journeys and fascinating stories to share.

One individual who gained her American citizenship on this day trav-



6:00 - 7:00 PM Mad Science

7:30 - 9:30 PM Get on Up, Band

eled all the way from Rwanda. Her motivation to move to the United States was her hope for finding a better life for her children.

All participants must take a test in order to obtain citizenship, where the process can be extensive and difficult, especially when English may not be the first language for many of them. Despite this, the Rwandan woman was determined and worked persistently over 13 years toward her goal of American citizenship, until she finally achieved it in 2024.

This was a day that will not be forgotten in the hearts of many. The RES students in attendance were also an integral part of what made this ceremony so particularly heartwarming.

Located on the wall behind the podium, students had hung colorful hand-drawn pictures and signs representing the American flag and included phrases such as "Welcome to the USA." Throughout the ceremony, the RES second- and third-grade chorus also sang American-themed patriotic songs to the new citizens, such as "The National Anthem," "America the Beautiful," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "This Pretty Planet."

John Facella, Public Safety Educator for Raymond Fire and Rescue, along with two of his military veteran colleagues, carried the flags into the gym, while the students sang. Facella mentioned how Raymond Elementary has always been able to make the Naturalization Ceremony such a meaningful experience for all those involved.

Not only did the school create an incredibly welcoming environment, which provided a memorable day for the people being naturalized, it also served as an important learning experience for the students.

By being given the opportunity to see a diverse group of countries represented, it introduced them to a variety of cultures from around the world. This experience could also spark curiosity about their own family lineage.

In addition to the Naturalization Ceremony, during the prior week Facella offered an American flag lesson and demonstration to RES second graders. Within his lecture, he interactively taught the students about its history, how it was sewn, and why it is part of American culture to show respect to the flag. He also presented to the class an American Legion comic book, which also contains all this information in a visual format.

Facella explained that his motivation to teach the young students about the flag and its significance, is the importance of understanding its symbolism. He says that it represents the United States, the freedom we have, and the people who previously served to protect this country. Facella's flag demonstration served as a great introduction for the students, in relation to the Naturalization Ceremony. It illustrated the concept of being a United States citizen and provided a background for why these 16 individuals have worked so hard to become American citizens. Both Facella's presentation and the Naturalization Ceremony contributed to the students' understanding and expanded world view. Most of all, 16 people memorably earned their citizenship after all their hard work and dedication. <

June 7, 2024





9:30 PM God Bless The USA & Fireworks

The Hall Implement Co., George Hall Memorial Stage

1:00 - 2:00 PM TBD

2:15 - 3:15 PM Mad Science

3:30 - 4:30 PM Dave DeBree, Band

5:00 - 5:45 PM Jason Tardy, Juggler

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and I give you a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart. We had a great crew that came forward to help including but not limited to Dave Brown, Raul Ferrer, Christina Keilt, Frank McDermott, Peter Leavitt, and all who attended or sponsored the

I do want to single out three other individuals, without whose assistance I would not have had gatherings. Thank you each and everyone of you.

I'll start with Sheila Bourque, whose computer expertise, town knowledge and past time on such great opportunities to have my voice heard.

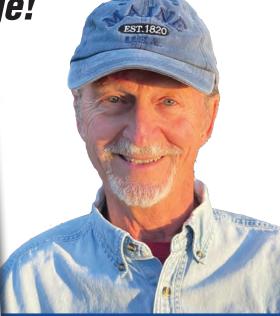
the Budget-Finance Committee have been invaluable to me. Next is Brian Walker, eight years on the Budget-Finance Committee, to whom I reached out many times when this decision to run for the Select Board position seemed out of reach. Brian, it was your reassuring voice of reason and your confidence that urged me on. Last but not least, Don Willard, our town manager for 23 years, who was forced into early retirement by a Select Board that refused to offer any retirement recognition or to even to place a citizen-organized party announcement in our town's Road Runner news. Don always says, "You can't go wrong by doing the right thing." I'm convinced I am doing the right thing by running and am pausing to take this moment to say

There are so many words I could say to show my gratitude to everyone for listening to thank you for believing in me.

my voice, reading my words, and supporting me as your representative, as well as personally displaying my name on your lawns, but I'll leave you with this: our community, our lakes and ponds, and our neighbors are all blessings I enjoy, and I believe we, together, can do better. Thank you all who will volunteer to work the polls for us; thank you all who will take the time to vote; and an even bigger thank you to all who will place your faith in me. When we succeed, I will never forget who I work for and who put me in office - the

townspeople of this great place I call home and we call Raymond. Tuesday, June 11, 2024, is the day we begin the "new normal" in Raymond,

where citizens once again participate in deciding what our town should look and feel like and which direction it should take. I hope you will take time to vote- it is - Denis Morse what makes democracy work.







Learn more about me at: denismorse.me

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"(/oting is how we participate in civic society - be it for president, be it for municipal election. It's the way we teach our children how to be citizens, and the importance of their voice." - Loretta Lynch

"I beleive in the critical importance of participating in the political system - from voting to standing for election. It's both rewarding and necessary that men and women of good will and clear thinking engage in honest, open debate." - Michael Nutter

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* * * * * * * * * Vote Denis Morse Tuesday, June 11, 2024 • Jordan Small School, Raymond

June 7, 2024



Technology Specialist wraps up 25-year career at WMS

By Ed Pierce **STAFF WRITER**

Editor's note: This is another in an ongoing series of Windham and Raymond town employee profiles.

It's been a wonderful ride for Peter Mullen, but after 25 years of working at Windham Middle School, he's retiring at the end of this school year.

Mullen is the Technology Specialist for Student Support for WMS, and his primary responsibility is to maintain the fleet of laptops that the school uses for both staff and students.

But as he explains it, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"We all work together in the IT Department so that devices in all buildings work as well, sharing our knowledge with each other and passing on tips and suggestions and having each other's back," Mullen said. "Then there are all the side issues that contribute to how well the devices work including the network, the performance of websites and software not under our control, to printing and managing information. Teaching today involves technology at every level which provides a constant threat that something will go wrong. There is also a lot of bookkeeping involved to make sure everything is kept track of, and we know who has what device and where everything is."

As a certified teacher, Mullen began working at WMS as a substitute in the spring of 1999. He agreed to serve as an Ed Tech in the fall of 1999 and

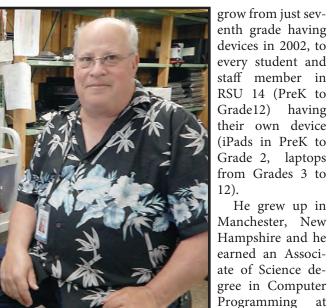
went on to work as a long-term sub teaching computer technology. He then taught computer science through the 2003-2004 school year.

"In 2002, the first round of laptops from the program MLTI arrived in Windham and I guess it was natural for me to start managing them while I was still teaching," Mullen said.

years. A new computer teacher was hired but it wasn't too long before that position was eliminated since the laptops sort of made the concept of a computer lab obsolete.

During his time at WMS, Mullen has witnessed the technology explosion in Windham and in virtually every school in the state.

"Maine is unique. It is the only state to ensure 1-1 access to technology," he said. "There are smaller jurisdictions that have done this, but nothing on this scale. I have seen it



"In the summer **Peter Mullen**, the Technology of 2004, a position Specialist for Student Support at College in Manwas created to just Windham Middle School, will retire chester. He went deal with the lap- at the end of the school year after back to school and tops which I have 25 years of working with students obtained a Bachenow been in for 20 and staff there. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

lor of Science degree in Behavioral Science from The College for Lifelong Learning, a division of the University of New Hampshire, and earned his teaching certification at Franklin Pierce College.

He grew up in

night from Hesser

His retirement wraps up a 44-year career in Information Technology.

"There were a couple of minor detours, but I consider my career to have started in 1980," Mullen said. "I had moved to California and was lucky enough to start on the ground floor of a bank that was opening its own data center. I moved back east and managed a large financial data center in Boston in the 1980s. I started in IT in a large room with a large, noisy, mainframe computer with paper tape, keypunch cards, and other museum quality things."

It was through a family connection that he ultimately landed at WMS.

"My cousin's wife is Marcia Mullen, who was the nurse at Windham Primary School for many years," he said. "She suggested I come to Windham. It couldn't happen today, but within a day or two of her introducing me to former principal Donna Stephen, I was day-subbing. I wasn't a complete stranger to Windham as I had visited Marcia and her family many times over the preceding years."

Of all the things he's learned while working at WMS through the years, Mullen says one stands out above the others.

"Balance. I have never been accused of having too much empathy, but I have worked to try to find the right balance in that regard," he said. "Part of growing up is the lessons of accountability and ownership. We hand out expensive tools to these children and things happen. My gut reaction is to hold them accountable which can include financial penalties among other repercussions that can affect a student's learning. But like I said earlier, it isn't always black and white, and I have gotten better at accepting that over the years." <

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Windham Public Library's summer schedule nearing

By Kaysa Jalbert

The Windham Public Library is hosting a summer of reading, fun and exciting programs, kicking off on Monday, June 17 with the opening of registration for the Summer Reading Program. All summer long, the library will travel to different outdoor events, host unique guests and hold hands-on learning experiences for all ages.

"Library cardholders of all ages will find a reading program to join and events to attend all summer long," says Jennifer Wood, Windham Library Director. "This year's theme is Read, Renew, Repeat and our programs will follow this theme of conservation."

Starting Saturday, June 15, the library will be off-site at the Windham Farmers' Market every other Saturday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Visitors can get a new library card, pick-up reserved holds for that week, drop off returns or check out something from the new inventory.

Following the Summerfest parade on Saturday June 22, the library will have a booth at the Summerfest venue from noon to 4 p.m. where participants can sign up for one of the Summer Reading Programs and see what events are in store for the summer.

On Wednesday June 26, visit the Maine State Society for the Protec-

tions of Animals in Windham for a library story time with horses. They will read books and follow the normal story time routine, then make time for questions and visiting with horses. The event is aimed at children ages 2 to 7 and will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Maine State Society for Protection of Animals is located at 279 River Road in Windham.

Also on June 26, the library hosts a smoothie making program for children ages 2- to 6-years-old. Kids can learn how to make their own smoothies and learn different recipes. This event will take place at the Windham Public Library from 2 to 3 p.m.

The library will host Mr. Drew and His Animals Too with Windham Parks & Recreation at Windham Middle School from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday July 3. Mr. Drew and His Animals Too is an education center and exotic rescue in Lewiston. This event is for ages 3 and up to get a hands-on educational experience with reptiles.

In July, families can also enjoy a Garden Party at 3 p.m. Monday, July 15 to explore ways to build and support healthy, happy and sustainable gardens indoors and outdoors. Later, from 1 to 5 p.m. July 29, art supplies will be scattered in and around the library for a Family Art Day for families to get messy, have fun and make art. Starting July 12 and running through Aug. 16, the event Fun with 4-H will take place at the library every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Aimed at children ages 4- to 9-years-old, this event is an introduction to animal science with a representative from 4-H, a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provide hands-on experiences for youth development.

One highlight of the author discussion program, Wood said, is hosting local author Monica Wood at 6 p.m. Wednesday Aug. 7.

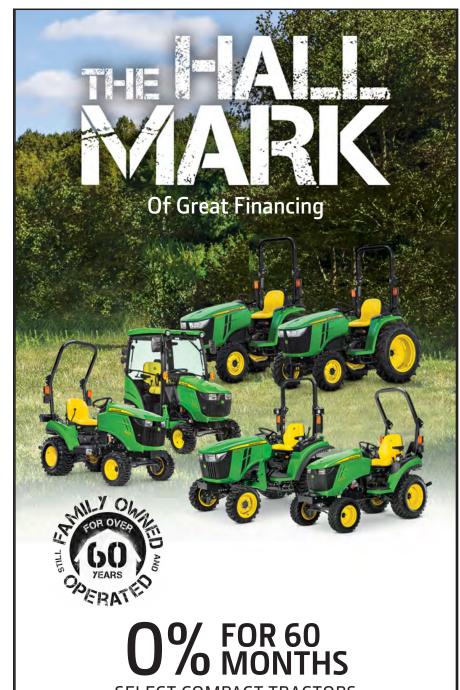
"Monica is a wonderful, local author and a staunch library supporter," the library director said. Her newest work called "How to Read a Book," was published in May.

In addition, the library will have regular programming for story times, books and babies, author talks, movie showings, cribbage and anime clubs, tech help, teen crafternoon, sign language class and outdoor movement. A calendar with dates and times for all events is available on the Windham Public Library website.

The Windham Public Library also has several Adventure passes to local museums and parks. The passes are checked out to cardholders and allow free or reduced entry fees to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Portland Museum of Art, The Children's Museum of Maine, Southworth Planetarium, Dundee Park, Maine Wildlife Park, and Maine State Parks.

The Windham Public Library Summer hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on Saturdays through Labor Day and on other summer holidays. Ther library is at 217 Windham Center Road in Windham.

FMI and more details about the summer calendar, visit www.wind-ham.lib.me.us or call 207-892-1908. <

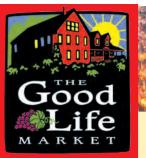






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Jane Pringle: Tackling Maine's housing crisis head-on

By State Rep. Jane Pringle SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



It is no secret that our state is in the midst of a housing crisis, which has been exacerbated by a combination of factors over the years that has meant

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- Jane Pringle building production has not kept up with demand. The result is a shortage of housing units statewide, which has had real-life consequences on Mainers from all walks of life. Many families have been unable

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to purchase their first home, some are struggling to find housing close to their workplaces or schools, and others are having a hard time affording their rent or property taxes.

In October 2023, the Maine State Housing Authority released a study that sets a production target of 84,300 homes by 2030 to compensate for the current underproduction while keeping pace with increased demand. Simply put, our housing stock requires investment, and our homeowners and renters need support. Recognizing this, my colleagues and I in the legislature have taken proactive steps to priori-

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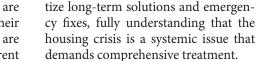
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Over the last two years, the legislature has provided substantial funds to support the unhoused population throughout our state, so more of our neighbors can have a safe place to sleep at night. We've appropriated more than \$21 million for emergency housing initiatives and \$7.5 million for low-barrier shelters. We've also invested in the "Housing First" model, a proven and effective strategy in addressing homelessness. This approach is both adaptable and compassionate as it prioritizes providing permanent housing to those in need without prerequisites or conditions. In addition, \$2 million has been earmarked for housing subsidies for homeless students, a demographic that often goes unnoticed in our unhoused population.

We have also made significant policy strides to invest in affordable housing development, which will help make more units available in the coming years. This includes providing additional funds to the Rural Affordable Housing Program, which provides financial assistance to developers to create affordable housing in rural areas. We have also increased the Low-Income Tax Credit, a tax incentive for developers who build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing. These measures will make it easier for residents who are currently struggling to find a home by increasing the number of units available

Strengthening our state's economy is always a top priority. One way that we can continue to support businesses while growing new industries is to make sure that workers are able to find a place to live. With that in mind, the legislature passed a bill to create the Workforce Housing Development Loan Fund, which will provide low-interest loans to support the development of affordable workforce housing.

Recognizing that a significant portion of Mainers are renters, we have also made it a priority to increase tenant protections. First, we enacted a bill that will limit fees that landlords can impose and increase transparency around "hidden fees" in lease agreements. Next, we established a commission to maximize the Section 8 housing voucher program, a lifeline for so many. This commission will investigate ways to improve access to housing vouchers and tenant-landlord relations to make the program more effective and efficient. Additionally, collaborating with MaineHousing once more, we enacted a bill to establish a two-year pilot program to support eviction prevention.

All of this legislation represents only a sampling of all we have accomplished during this past legislative session to mitigate the stress caused by our state's housing crisis and help meet the goals outlined by MaineHousing back in October. There is no doubt that more must be done, but I am proud of the policies that my colleagues and I have enacted, and I am confident that these measures will lead to meaningful and lasting change. <





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Local students receive academic accolades

Riley Silvia of Raymond was named to Lasell University's Spring 2024 Dean's List.

Donna Harmon, Mireille Nkulu, Brad Chicoine, and Armangul Ozat, all from Windham, have been named to the Maine College of Health Professions Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester.

Brady Jackson, Zachary Loftis, Cameron McCartney, Karleigh Hammar, all from Windham, and Kyle Anderson of Raymond have been named to the President's List at Southern New Hampshire University for the Winter 2024 semester running from January to May.

Shawn Dunnells of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at Southern New Hampshire University for the Winter 2024 semester running from January to May.

Odessa Files of Windham was named to the St. Lawrence University's Dean's List for achieving academic excellence during the Fall 2023 semester.

Brandon Cummings of Wind-

ham has recently been initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. He was initiated at the University of Maine at Orono.

Lily Savard of Windham was named to Rhodes College's Fall 2023 Honor Roll.

Brad Chicoine of Windham has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the Maine College of Health Professions.

Hope Phelps and Mireille Nkulu, both from Windham, have earned Associate of Applied Science degrees in the Radiologic Technology Program at the Maine College of Health Professions.

Austin Bergeron of Raymond has been named to the Spring 2024 President's List at Georgia State University.

Reese Merritt of Raymond has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Springfield College for the 2024 spring semester. <

ELECTION Cont. from page 3

needed but differ in opinion about the scope and size of the proposed project. Select Board members recommend approval of the project, while Budget Finance Committee do not recommend voting for it. Getting that language on the ballot caused some friction between the Select Board and the Budget Finance Committee earlier this year when Raymond Selectmen voted to nullify a Budget Finance Committee unanimous vote to not recommend the referendum item. It does appear on the ballot though as recommended by Selectmen but not recommended by the town's Budget Finance Committee.

Lastly, voters in Raymond and Windham will vote to approve the RSU 14 budget proposal.

During a meeting in May, the following budget proposal was put forward: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, local funds for non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools. The RSU 14 Board of Directors recommends \$60,185,403.

Voting in Raymond will be at Jordan-Small Middle School and runs from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters can cast ballots in Windham at Windham High School between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. <



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BRIEFS

Memorial Bench

A memorial bench will be dedicated in memory of local businessman George Bartlett at the Raymond Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Routes 302 and 85 at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 8. George Bartlett was a member of the Sebago Lake Rotary Club for over 30 years and owned the Busy Bee Laundromat business in Windham for nearly 40 years before his death last July. He was very involved in the community and was instrumental in the planning and preparations of the Polar Dip. Family and friends are welcome to attend the bench dedication. The bench was donated in George's memory by the Sebago Lake Rotary Club.

Pot Roast Supper

Raymond Village Community Church's Pot Roast Supper returns Saturday, June 8. The meals are takeout only and will be ready for pick-up between 5 and 6 p.m. June 8 at the church, 27 Main St. in Raymond. The meal includes pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$15. A new feature this year is you can order in advance for all four Pot Roast Suppers this summer for a discounted cost of \$55. Meals will be hot and ready when picked up and order in advance as it is unlikely that extra meals will be available. To order your meals please call the office at 207-655-7749 before noon on June 8 and leave a message with your

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name, number of meals and the time you will pick up. Or if you prefer, you can send an e-mail to office@rvccme. org with the information.

Windham Cancer Support Group

The Windham Cancer Support Group will host a caregiver-only meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10 at the Windham Public Library. The next regular meeting for the Windham Cancer Support Group will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 25 at the library and anyone affected by cancer is welcome to attend. FMI, email: plrfrenchie51@aol.com

Veterans support

The American Legion Post 148 in Windham hosts a Veterans Service Officer Support (VSO) session from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Windham Veterans Center. James Fisher from the Lewiston VA Office conducts office hours. Call 207-753-9106 or email Lewiston.mainebvs@maine.org





maintaining Veteran's Memorial Park and the beaches.

Looking to the future, Dodson envisions the town taking responsibility for the pruning and weeding, while the committee would handle planting annuals, bulbs, and maintaining the existing perennials. She said that the lighter scope of work might help attract more volunteers.

Dodson sees the vision of the committee as a partnership between businesses, the town, and volunteers.

"Making things pretty is appealing to volunteers and gives us a sense of gratification," said Dodson. "We really appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing our 20-year tradition of making our town just a little more beautiful."

To learn more or if you are interested in volunteering, contact the committee through their Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/ RaymondBeautificationCommittee

Volunteers can also call the Raymod Town Office at (207) 655-4742 or simply show up at Veteran's Memorial Park Friday mornings at 8am. Just look for the fluorescent green Raymond volunteer shirts - and you have found them. If Fridays don't work for you, Dodson can set up a time to meet to point out potential projects that can be completed independently.

To donate to the Raymond Beautification Committee, simply drop off or mail a check to: Town of Raymond, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071, Attn.: Beautification Committee. <



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SAMSUNG

Rhubarb season offers a wealth of opportunities

By Kendra Raymond STAFF WRITER

Late spring in Maine can only mean one thing: rhubarb season has arrived. For some, this is a much-anticipated rite of passage into summer, while for others it may not even be on their radar. Whether you are a fan or not, why not embrace the season and take advantage of this quirky early season crop?

Rhubarb is a perennial plant which returns yearly and is classified as a vegetable in the buckwheat family. Rhubarb needs to live in areas where winter temperatures dip below 40 degrees which encompasses USDA hardiness zones 3-8; Our area is classified as 5a to 5b.

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension bulletin #2514 entitled "Growing Rhubarb in Maine" provides some great background education, growing tips, and uses. The publication says that early records of rhubarb in America identify an unnamed Maine gardener as having obtained seed or rootstock from Europe in the period between 1790 to 1800. He introduced it to growers in Massachusetts where its popularity spread and by 1822 it was sold in produce markets.

In Judith M. Fertig's book, "The Memory of Lemon," the main character who is a baker says, "I loved rhubarb, that hardy, underappreciated garden survivor that leafed out just as the worst of winter melted away."

Think of rhubarb as one of the first crops of spring, coming in a close second to fiddleheads. Full of many vitamins and fiber, rhubarb is a nutritious and low-maintenance addition to the home landscape, providing interesting texture, serving as a border, or a quick area filler.

As a horticulturist, I am always looking for opportunities to obtain plants for cheap or free, and especially heritage varieties belonging to family or those that



hold sentimental Two varieties of rhubarb are shown crown. Plan to value. When my growing outside a home in the Town obtain at least two in-law's house in of Raymond. PHOTO BY KENDRA RAYMOND

Fort Kent was listed for sale, you better believe I was out in the garden, axe in hand to chip away a piece of my husband's childhood rhubarb patch. Yearly, I make my mother-in-law's rhubarb jelly with her rhubarb.

The New England Vegetable guide says that: In New England, the most common rhubarb variety grown is Macdonald, also known as Macdonald's Canadian Red or Macdonald Crimson. This cultivar has large stalks and a vigorous and upright growing habit and is resistant to wilt and root rot. It is probably the most common variety available. It is excellent for pies, canning, and freezing.

Transplanting

It's not difficult to get part of a rhubarb plant, either at a garden center, or by dividing a small section from a

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friend or neighbor's plant. Dividing rhubarb is best done in early spring when the crowns emerge from the soil. This will give the new plant a long growing season to become established in its new site. Next, dig a trench around the desired section of the plant to expose the

buds and a decent

section of root, but don't worry if you lose some deep roots - they will do just fine. An axe or sharp tipped shovel works well for this task. Keep your root ball moist and transplant as soon as possible. Choose a sunny location with lots of space for expansion. Make sure the crown is a couple inches above the soil level to ensure proper growing.

Flowers and Harvesting

As the plants mature for the season, a large flower may emerge from the stalks. Removal of the flowers can stimulate healthy growth, but leaving the flowers is also an option if you like them. When the stalks appear mature, simply cut them at the base to harvest. Do not cut immature stalks, and never remove more than half of the plant. Remove the leaves (they are toxic), wash the stalks and cut as desired for various uses. Rhubarb leaves make a great addition to the home compost pile. Fresh rhubarb stalks can be stored in the refrigerator for several days.

I've got 'em, now what?

This is the fun part: time to get creative with preparation methods for your fresh rhubarb. In my recipe book, I have a section entitled "rhubarb," which comes in handy for this application. My gold standard is old fashioned rhubarb coffee cake, a recipe handed to me by my mother. I also like making crisps, jelly, pie, and relish. The internet is filled with creative and healthy ways to use rhubarb.

Read more about Rhubarb in the University of Maine Cooperative Extension bulletin here: https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2514e/

Here is a great bulletin about the health benefits of rhubarb including storage options and recipes: https:// extension.umaine.edu/publications/4266e

Taste of Home provides 10 great rhubarb recipes here: www.tasteofhome.com/collection/top-10-rhubarb-recipes <



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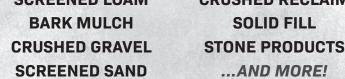
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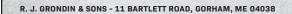


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You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a meeting at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

PUBLIC HEARING & SITE PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: Scott Simons, Simons Architects LOCATION: Map: 009 Lot: 19 Zone LRR1 85 Plains Road – Camp Timanous DESCRIPTION: Site Plan – Youth Camp Barn & Kitchen Renovations

PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: Nicolas Cummings by Dustin Roma LOCATION: Map: 004 Lot: 15B Zone LRR2 Mila's Woods Road DESCRIPTION: Road Construction Permit

SITE PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: Keystone Investment Group LLC by Dustin Roma LOCATION: Map: 007 Lot: 32 Zone VR Alfred Mann Drive DESCRIPTION: Road Construction Permit

PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDMENT TO APPROVED SUBDIVISION

 APPLICANT: Derek Ray/Cousins Development Corporation
 LOCATION: Map: 018 Lot: 18C, 16C, 18 Zone R Tenny Hill Road Extension
 DESCRIPTION: Waive requirement of underground power to overhead lines

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: Matt DiBiase LOCATION: Map: 017 Lot: 19 Zone Rural 138 North Raymond Road DESCRIPTION: Site Plan to Create Backlot Driveway

PUBLIC HEARING & SITE PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: Town of Raymond – Parks & Recreation Dept. LOCATION: Map: 048 Lot: 11 Zone VR1

63 Mill Street – Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park

DESCRIPTION: Site Plan for construction of two (2) tennis courts (78' x 36') and two (2) pickleball courts (44' x 20') in an approximately 17,880 s.f. fenced area

Review Letter from owner of Lot 5, Woodstone Way to appeal against requirement of a sprinkler system in construction of new house.

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube www. raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

GRADUATE Cont. from page 1

than what I may be taught and not be afraid to use it, especially in math," he said. "Lots of the math and science classes require formulas and lots of steps to find an answer. If I couldn't make sense of a formula or solve something, I tried to make something for myself."

He credits his teachers, school guidance counselors and his parents for prioritizing what he needs to be successful in life.

"My mentors in school such as teachers and counselors have helped me get to the point that I'm at now," Vail said. "They guided me as a student to succeed in what I want for myself. But above all, my parents' support and dedication to my future has gotten me the farthest and it continues to outside the classroom."

Vail's favorite teachers at Windham High School are Alissa James, Peter Small and Jeffrey Neal.

"They all brought passion to the classroom, cared about what they taught and never treated anyone like a stranger," he said. "Their kindness and enthusiasm are top notch. My favorite class was U.S. History with Mr. Neal. I have always been a fan of history and learning why certain things exist today. Learning about our history as a nation is rewarding and full of interesting stories. That and every class beginning with current events was always a class I looked forward to."

Vail also credits his sixth-grade teacher at Windham Middle School, Sarah Hopkins, for helping him to reach one of his goals of completing high school.

"I was by no means a great student in sixth grade. She helped me become a better student and taught me how to focus on what I want as I go through high school and to work hard to accomplish it," he said.

With his high school diploma in hand, Vail says his immediate plan is to continue his flight training and to eventually become a professional pilot working in aviation.

"I plan on taking online classes toward a bachelor's degree once I am settled in a flying job and my career goal is to fly for Delta," he said.

Now that his time as a high school student is finished, Vail says his most enduring memory will be passing in his final assignment.

"Years and years of school and thousands of assignments, and that personal finance assignment was the last one," he said. "I will never forget that feeling. All the hard work and the long nights, early mornings and it was that last one that took all the stress away." <

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Copy of the submitted applications are available for review on the town website (www.raymondmaine.org/content/planningboard-agenda) after September 19, 2023, or at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.

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The Windham Eagle

Disability nonprofit benefits from generous donations

Best Buddies Maine, a nonprofit bringing hope and ending the isolation of students with intellectual and developmental disorders, was selected as the May recipient of charitable donations from 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine.

The Best Buddies Maine organization was one of three nonprofits to give five-minute presentations about their organizations at the quarterly meeting of 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine on May 6 at The Elks Club in Portland. The nonprofit received the most votes from more than 175 in-person attendees with many others joining on ZOOM. Best Buddies Maine will receive a \$50 check from each member in the group.

Julia Preston, Deputy Director, Communications & Stewardship of Best Buddies Maine, gave a heartfelt presentation for the nonprofit dedicated to ending the isolation of students and adults with IDD, also known as intellectual and developmental disorders. Best Buddies Maine currently has close to 40 chap-



ters in local schools across the state that provide one-to-one friendship matches between students with and without IDD. The goal of their student programming is to engage students with and without disabilities with one another and forge meaningful friendships between the two groups.

"We're so thankful to have been selected as 100 Women Who Care Southern Maine's charitable partner for this quarter," Preston said. "This funding will be put toward the launch of our transitions program, which provides post-secondary and job skills training to high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

In addition, the two runner-up organizations Community Doulas and Birth Roots Maine each received \$2,000 from the group of philanthropic women.

Deb Bergeron, founder of 100+



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Women Who Care said to date her group has collected \$15,000 for Best Buddies Maine.

"And, as a bonus, the nonprofit also qualifies for the \$5000 grant from the generous Richard Schulze Foundation, bringing their total to \$20,000," Bergeron said. "We are on track to have the biggest donation yet. Every day I am so grateful for the kindness, compassion and generosity of our members."

Since the inception of 100+ Women Who Care over nine years ago, the group has raised over \$599,000 and donated to 41 local nonprofits throughout Southern Maine.

For more information about 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine, visit www.100womenwhocaresouthernmaine.com

For more information about Best Buddies, visit www.BestBuddies.org/ Maine <





Town affairs, are hereby notified to meet at the Windham Town Hall Gym, 8 School Road on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 10:00 in the forenoon to elect a Moderator and to act on Articles 2-24 to approve the 2024-2025 Municipal Budget. The doors will open at 9:30 for checking in, the meeting will begin promptly at 10:00. Please enter through the old entrance to check-in.

Associated documents can be found at: www.windhammaine.us under the Government tab.

Thank you, Linda Morrell - Town Clerk/CCM

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June 7, 2024

SUN Bucks Program to assist in feeding kids during break

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Office for Family Independence (OFI) has introduced SUN Bucks, a program to help eligible families access food for their children during the summer months. The program provides families with a one-time benefit of \$120 for each eligible school-aged child to supplement the summer grocery budget until classes and regular school meals resume in the fall. The new federal program supplements free meals that kids of all ages can access at summer meal sites in their communities. SUN Bucks can be used to buy groceries everywhere that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are accepted, including grocery stores and farmers markets, to purchase healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, meats and other protein sources, whole grains, and dairy. Research shows that



TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

• SITE WALK - JUNE 8, 2024, 9:00AM

24-18 Astral Village Subdivision (formerly 11-Unit Residential Development) Tax Map: 18-A, Lot: 48-1 – Tandberg Trail. Subdivision and site plan review for a two building residential development with associated infrastructure

• SITE WALK – JUNE 10, 2024, 5:00PM 24-05 Donnabeth Lippman Park Expansion & Stormwater Management Improvements Tax Map: 18, Lots: 19A, 20 – Plaza Drive. Amendments to stormwater management and for additional future development.

- REGULAR MEETING -Monday, June 10, 2024 • 6:30 PM Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

 Public hearing for 23-34 Natural Wonders Daycare Tax Map: 43, Lot: 30 A-2 – Pope Road.
 Site plan review for a childcare facility. This public hearing was postponed from the May 13, 2024 Planning Board meeting.

 Public hearing for 24-05 Donnabeth Lippman Park Expansion & Stormwater Management Improvements Tax Map: 18, Lots: 19A, 20 – Plaza Drive. Amendments to stormwater providing families with summer grocery benefits reduces child hunger and supports healthier diets.

SUN Bucks, also known as the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program, is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and permanently replaces the Pandemic EBT program that began in 2020. In Maine, nearly 100,000 children are eligible for the SUN Bucks benefit, which will be available to families by the end June 2024.

Most families will receive SUN Bucks benefits without having to take any action because they are already enrolled in OFI programs or through our close partnership with the Maine Department of Education.

School is almost out for the summer which means Maine kids will lose access to school breakfast and lunch, said Anna Korsen, Policy and Program Director for Full Plates Full Potential.

"Thankfully, SUN Bucks will be available to fill the gap and bolster families' grocery budgets," Korsen said. "Alongside free summer meals, SUN Bucks is a critical tool to increase food security during the summer months. Maine is again leading the nation as one of the 37 states implementing this new program."

Enrollment: Most families will receive SUN Bucks automatically if they already receive other benefits, but some families may need to apply.

• Families not automatically enrolled but who believe their children are eligible can apply for SUN Bucks now and applications must be received by Aug. 15 to qualify.

• OFI is mailing notification letters to eligible households this week.

How eligible families will receive SUN Bucks

For households currently enrolled in SNAP, benefits will be automatically uploaded to their existing EBT card, known as the Pine Tree card.

• Children who were previously recipients of P-EBT and are not enrolled in SNAP will receive their benefits on their existing P-EBT card. Households that did not keep their P-EBT card may need to request a replacement card to access these benefits.

• Children eligible for SUN Bucks, not enrolled in SNAP and who have never been enrolled in P-EBT will receive a Pine Tree card with their benefit. Cards must be activated within 45

days of receipt. <



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management and for additional future development.

- Public hearing for 24-18 Astral Village Subdivision (formerly 11-Unit Residential Development) Tax Map: 18-A, Lot: 48-1 – Tandberg Trail. Subdivision and site plan review for a two building residential development with associated infrastructure
- 24-19 Sabady Point Road Extension Tax Map: 18, Lot: 39 – Sabady Point Road. Site plan review for a proposed 5,050 square foot addition to an existing private warehouse building.

FMI go to windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or contact (207) 894-5960 ex. 2. Written comment may be submitted to the Board at PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us. Please notify us if you have special needs due to a disability.

STEP 2 SEND EMAIL

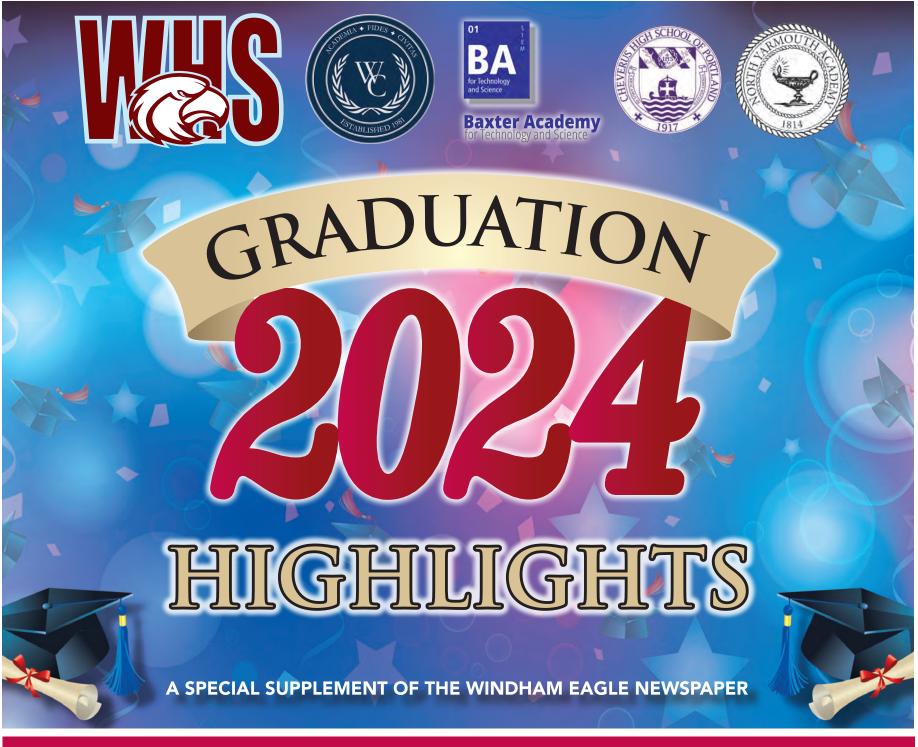
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WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL 2024 GRADUATION CEREMONY Sunday, June 9th at 1:30 p.m. @ Cross Insurance Arena

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE GRADUATION WILL BE COACH CHAD PULKKINEN Pulkkinan guided Windham Boys Baskbetball to the State Class AA Championship this past season and is a 2002 graduate of Windham High School.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!





Savannah Heanssler





Ainslie Hougaz-McCormick



Lucas Oldershaw

Samantha Kerr

Olivia Saucier



Jaydn Kimball







Lilian Nguyen

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Pulkkinen to deliver keynote address at WHS graduation

Graduation ceremonies for the Windham High School Class of 2024 will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 9 at Cross Insurance Arena in Portland.

Windham High Boys' Basketball Coach Chad Pulkkinen will be the guest speaker at the event.

Pulkkinen has coached for 10 seasons at WHS and guided the Eagles to winning their very first Gold Ball, capturing the Maine Class AA State Championship and its first-ever Regional Championship earlier this year. Under his leadership, Windham High School shattered the school record for victories in a season with 19 in 2024 and was the first boys' basketball team in school history to be ranked Number 1 in the state for all classes.

He was honored as 2024 North AA Coach of the Year by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches and during his coaching career at WHS he's been awarded SMAA Coach of The Year for the 2016-2017 season, MABC Coach of The Year AA North for the 2023-2024 season and Varsity Maine All-State Coach of The Year for the 2023-2024 season. His teams also have also been singled out for two SMAA Sportsmanship Awards in 2015-2016 and 2022-2023.

He graduated from Windham High School in 2002, where he led the basketball team to the postseason playoffs during his junior and senior years. During his prep playing career, Pulkkinen received McDon-



Chad Pulkkinen is this year's guest speaker for the WHS graduation ceremony. FILE PHOTO

ald's All-Star and SMAA All-Conference honors.

After graduation, Pulkkinen played basketball at Saint Joseph's College of Maine and was team captain for three years. He finished his college career at Saint Joseph's ranked second all-time in career three-pointers made with 192, was third all-time in three-pointers made in a season with 83, and 10th all-time in threepoint field goal percentage, shooting 34.1 percent overall. He also is ranked second all-time for Saint Joseph's in single-season free throw percentage at 85.7 percent and sixth all-time in career free throw percentage for the Monks at 75.9 percent.

After earning a degree in business from Saint Joseph's College, Pulkkinen played professional basketball overseas in England for the Northampton Neptunes in the England Basketball League during the 2007-2008 season. He averaged 19 points per game and was one of the

top players in the league, but sustained a knee injury after the season ended and he was unable to continue his professional career.

He is married, has two children and lives in Windham where he is the Chief Executive Officer for Windham Millwork, Inc. <



THIS IS YOUR LIFE By Joanna Fuchs

Be aware of your blessings, Graduate. Your degree proves you are smart and diligent, but you've hardly begun to tap all your potential.

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Behind you, all your memories. Ahead of you, all your dreams. Around you, all who love you. Within you, all you need!



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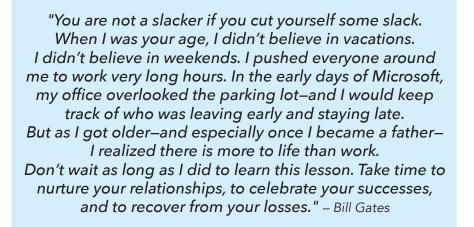
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HONORING **THE WHS CLASS OF 2024**

SOPHIA GUGLIUZZA will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall; I plan on studying political

science while on a pre-law

track. Throughout my time at WHS, I have been a part of the school's Civil Rights Team, Social Justice League, as well as the Unified Basketball Team, the Unified Bocce Team, and the Unified Club. I would like to thank my parents as well as my brother for always supporting me and my endeavors! Additionally, I want to acknowledge all that Mr. McNeill and Ms. Blake have done for me within the past four years, from backing my inclusive initiatives to dedicating their time to them.



University and double majoring in politics and international and global studies with a focus in international order. I've been in the High School Quiz

Team, Theater, Spanish Honors Society, Class Council, Student Council, and the National Honor Society. Some of my favorite memories include winning the 2023 State Quiz Bowl Championship in a tie-breaker game and making waffles at the 2024 One-Act festival. I would like to thank my parents for their endless support and motivation, I wouldn't have gotten this far without them. I would also like to thank all my teachers for helping me throughout my education. Specifically, I want to thank Mr. Ziegler for helping me grow as a leader in



Class of

2024!

Special congrats to

DYLAN SPERRY!

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the quiz team, Ms. Hazard for enabling our class council to be as successful as possible while also teaching me to write essays like a pro, and Mr. Rathbun for making this English and history nerd excited about science.

KAITLYN FARRIN will be going to Brandeis

"Buckle up, you have good times and rough seas ahead. It is just part of life, but enjoy the ride and laugh a lot... Life is about to unfold for you in all its forms. Love, heartache, accomplishments, disappointment, testing of faith... life is beautiful, so I repeat, buckle up and laugh along the way. It makes life fun." – Ree Drummond



"Decide to ground yourself in values that last, like honesty, hard work, responsibilty, fairness, generosity, respect for others." - Barack Obama

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that activates the engine of success."

"Motivation is the electrical power

WE WISH YOU ALL **A BRIGHT FUTURE!** *From the crew at:*

HONORING THE WHS **CLASS OF 2024**

RACHELLE CLOUTIER will be attending

The University of Connecticut majoring in Data Science and Engineering. Throughout high school, I have been on the Volleyball team and the Indoor & Outdoor Track and Field

teams. I have also been a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Key Club, and Social Justice League. Some of my favorite memories from the past four years include volunteering with Key Club, all the fun times I had with my teammates, and teaching Spanish to elementary students. I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, and coaches for supporting me and always pushing me to do my best.





ELIZABETH BEARCE will be attending The

University of New Hampshire to study Biomedical Engineering. Throughout high school I have been a part of the Cross Country team, Indoor Track and

Field team, and Outdoor Track and Field team. I have also been in National Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society, Social Justice League, Key Club, Student Council, and Mental Health Advocacy. Some of my most fondest memories at this school were being with my teammates in track and cross country, teaching Spanish to the elementary kids, volunteering in Key Club, and



being in Ms. Bubier's and Ms. Petcher's classes. I'd like to thank my coaches Conant and Riddle for always pushing me to improve and aim for my goals. I am also very appreciative to all the amazing teachers who made the classroom more enjoyable. Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to my mother for always supporting me and encouraging me to strive to be the greatest version of self.

GREAT JOB TO THE WHS 2024 TOP 10!





CONGRATS,

LAURA!

ANDERSON ACADEMY



KHALYSA HAMMITH will be attending the

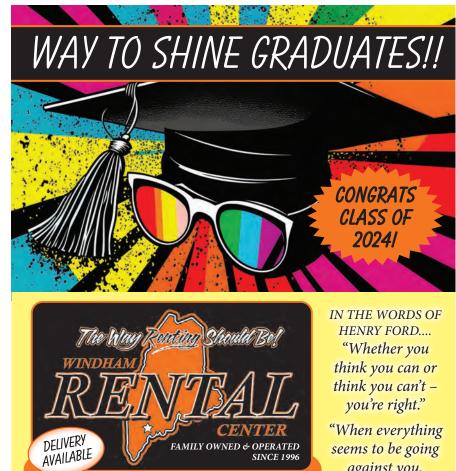
University of Southern Maine. I plan to major in nursing with hopes of becoming a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist). During high school, I participated in Varsity In-

door and Outdoor Track & Field. I was also a member of various clubs such as the Spanish Honor Society, Black Student Union, Student Council, and Civil Rights Team. One of my fondest memories was the school trip I took to Italy, France, and Switzerland during my sophomore year. It was a life-changing experience that helped me discover my love for traveling. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my parents for their relentless support, as well as my guidance



counselor who has been a constant source of guidance throughout my journey and helped me make important decisions. I must also thank my coaches, whose unwavering guidance and mentorship have been absolutely essential not only in my progression as an athlete but also as a person and a student.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CHERISH THE MEMORIES!





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against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

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NGRATULATIONS!

HONORING THE WHS CLASS OF 2024

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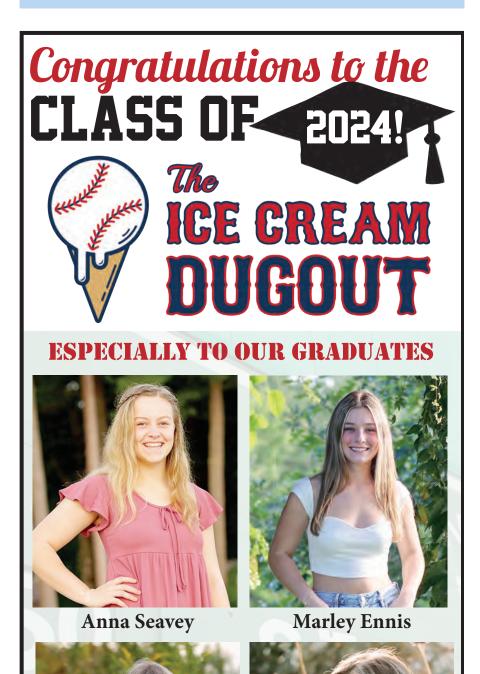
MAGGIE WHITING will be going to Merri-

mack College this fall to study biochemistry. Throughout my years at Windham High School, I have been a part of

National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Social Justice League. I also volunteered for over 100 hours at the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland through all four years of high school. I am so thankful for every teacher I have had throughout my time in the Windham/Raymond school district. I would also like to thank my parents for everything they have done to support me!



"My wish for you is that your life becomes all that you want it to. Your dreams stay big, your worries stay small." – Rascal Flatts



LAURA BEARCE will be attending The Universi-

ty of New Hampshire to study Biomedical Sciences in hopes of either becoming a Physician's Assistant or an Anesthesiologist Assistant. Throughout high

school I have been a member of the Windham Chamber Singers, National Honors Society, French Honors Society, Social Justice League, Key Club, Student Council, Civil Rights, Mental Health Advocacy, Debate Team, and She Speaks Power. I have also been a part of the District II music festival, and All-State chorus. Some of my fondest memories were with the Chamber Singers



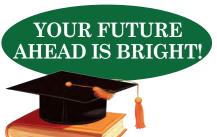
on tour and at our Franco's Center performance, in French class with some of my favorite people, volunteering for the buddy walk and power serve, and Ms. Petcher's and Mr. Livengood's classes. I am so very grateful to have experienced my education through Raymond and Windham schools and want to express my deepest gratitude to all the amazing teachers who have helped me get to where I am today. I know you will continue to inspire all your students and help them grow as you've done for me.

"I'm going to go out on a limb here and give you one little piece of advice and that is like the idea of a future. Believe you have it in you to make the world look better rather than worse seven generations from now. Figure out what that could look like. And then if you're lucky, you'll find a way to live inside that hope, running down its hallways, touching the walls on both sides." – Barbara Kingsolver



WAY TO GO, GRADS!

On this, your graduation day all stand and give cheer to honor you for all the work you've done to get here. As we rise and give applause be sure you don't forget that learning is not over as your future plans are met. May you always be a listener, and learn from all you meet. Always keep a student's spirit and your life will be complete.



 Macie Ennis
 Kaylei Souvannasing

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HONORING THE WHS CLASS OF 2024



EZRA FOSTER will attend the University of Maine

Orono next year to study finance. While in high school I played Football and ran Track, and this July will be playing in the Shriners Lobster Bowl. I have also

participated in the National Honor Society, Latin Honors Society, Key Club, and created the Investments and Finance Club. I would like to thank my coaches, teachers, and friends for supporting me and giving me a great high school experience. Most importantly I want to thank my parents for always being my biggest supporters and doing everything they can to help me succeed.





CONNOR LECLERC will attend the Univer-

sity of Southern Maine to study Health Sciences and play soccer. Throughout high school I played soccer and was a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Thank

you to my coaches and teachers who have helped me get to where I am today. And finally thank you to all my friends and family who have been there for me and supported me the last four years.



"You cannot dream of becoming something you do not know about. You have to learn to dream big. Education exposes you to what the world has to offer, to the possibilities open to you." – Sonia Sotomayor

SYDNEY SAVARD plans to attend the Uni-

versity of Georgia to study Biology and Neuroscience. During my time in high school, I have been an active member of the National Honor Society, been an

officer in our Spanish Honor Society, and been president of our Social Justice League. Some of my favorite moments include going on the Costa Rica exchange trip and presenting at the New England Youth Identity Summit alongside Kendra Eubanks. I want to give a special thanks to Mrs. Burton for always being there for me and being beyond supportive when the odds were against



me. Big thanks to my family, your support and love has been endless. Especially grateful for my best friend Ainslie, I wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

YOU ALL MAKE OUR COMMUNITY PROUD!

"There's a saying that if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life. At Apple, I learned that's a total crock. You'll work harder than you ever thought possible, but the tools will feel light in your hands. As you go out into the world, don't waste time on problems that have been solved... Look for the rough spots, the problems that seem too big, the complexities that other people are content to work around. It's in those places that you will find your purpose. It's there that you can make your greatest contribution." – Tim Cook

Congratulations **CLASS OF 2**

"Physical strength (hard work), mental strength (perseverance), and spiritual strength (love & acceptance) are the keys to continuous growth." - Rickson Gracie

> "True strength is not always shown through victory. Stand up, try again and display the strength of heart."



REMAINING



ALPHABETICAL

ABIGAIL ALLEN will be enrolling at the University of Maine at Farmington in the fall as a Middle and Secondary Education Major. Throughout my high school journey, I have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to knowledge acquisition. Despite various challenges, I have consistently pushed myself to excel academically and personally, earning a 4.0 GPA. Over the course of my four years in high school, I have not only concentrated on my academic accomplishments but have also assisted others in enhancing



their academic performance. I am deeply appreciative of the teachers who have guided, challenged, and motivated me to pursue a career in education. Their unwavering encouragement and support have played a crucial role in shaping my passion for teaching and assisting success in others.

ALYSSA CONLEY will be attending Saint Anselm College to study Psychology. Throughout high school I have participated in girls' soccer, field hockey, girls' basketball, unified basketball, and girls' tennis. I have also been a part of many clubs and honor societies such as Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Unified club, Key club, and Social Justice League. I would like to thank my parents, teachers, and coaches for everything they have done to help me over these past four years. Their support and encourage-



ment is no unnoticed or under-appreciated and will continue to impact my life not only in college but in the time after. **CATE CULPOVICH** will be attending the University of Maine Orono and majoring in psychology. I am deeply appreciative of the staff at Windham, particularly Mrs. Petcher, my math teacher, and Mrs. Hazard, our class advisor and my English teacher. Their guidance has been invaluable to me. I must also express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Caron and Mr. Rossetti for their unconditional support during a challenging end to my senior year. Looking ahead, my focus will be on achieving further success while prioritizing happiness.



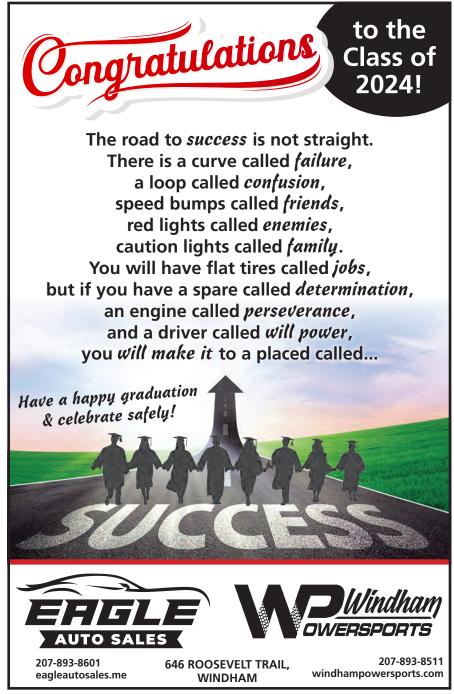
SHAWNA EDWARDS will be attending Southern Maine Community College to get an associate's degree in Early Childhood. I played soccer for the first two years of high school ,and I am a part of the National Technical Honors Society. My favorite memory from WHS is in Mrs. Holmes-Perkins's classroom. I thank her for giving me the education that brings me joy, and I can remember the information well. She makes learning fun and you end up knowing more than just the subject you study in her class.



I would also like to thank my Vocational teacher, Mrs. Bruns, for pushing me to be the best teacher I could be. Without her, I do not know if I would have pursued my love for teaching. Finally, I would like to thank my parents, Beverly and Shawn Edwards, for supporting me throughout my childhood by giving me opportunities to further my education and to do the things I love.

"Decisions are made by those who show up. Don't ever forget that you're a citizen of this world, and there are things you can do to lift the human spirit, things that are easy, things that are free, things that you can do every day: civility, respect, kindness, character." – Aaron Sorkin





REMAINING

ALPHABETICAL

BROOKE GERRY will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall to study kinesiology and play softball. During my time at Windham High School, I played varsity softball for all 4 years, and was a part of the state championship team. I was also the vice president for the National Honor Society, and I have been a part of the Spanish Honor Society. I would like to thank all my teachers, coaches, and family members for their support. Mom, Dad, and Kelsey thank you for always pushing me to be my best, I wouldn't have made it without you.



SAVANNAH HEANSSLER - will be attending The University of North Carolina Wilmington to study Nursing. Throughout high school I have participated in varsity volleyball and swimming. I have also been a part of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Key Club, Social Justice League, and Yearbook. I would like to thank my teachers and family for all of their support that has gotten me this far.

ALEJANDRA HIDELL will be going to Bryant University to study international business. Throughout high school, I played varsity soccer and varsity tennis. I also was the President of the Spanish Honor Society and the Vice President of the French Honor Society. One of my most favorite memories from the past four years was the France and Spain trip I went on. I would like to thank my teachers for guiding me, my coaches for pushing me, and my parents for supporting me!



"Real courage is holding on to a still voice in your head that says, 'I must keep going.' It's that voice that says nothing is a failure if it is not final. That voice that says to you, 'Get out of bed. Keep going. I will not quit.'" – Cory Booker

Congratulations Class of 2024!

"A bright future beckons. The onus is on us, through hard work, honesty, and integrity, to reach for the stars." Nelson Mandela



AINSLIE HOUGAZ-MCCORMICK will be

attending The University of Massachusetts Amherst and plan on majoring in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Throughout high school, I have participated in varsity lacrosse, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Yearbook Club. I would like to thank all my teachers (specifically Mr. Becker, Mr. Riddle, and Ms. Hazard) for all the support, wisdom, and motivation they've given me over the years. I would especially like to thank my grandparents



for their love and support and my family for encouraging me along the way, shoutout to my mom for being who I look up to in life!

SAMANTHA KERR will be attending Gettysburg College in the fall to study Psychology. Throughout high school, I participated in Key Club, Social Justice League, Class Council, and French Honors Society. Some of my favorite memories were created on the trip to the Capitals of the British Isles with EF and in my French classes. I would like to thank all my teachers from the past 12 years, especially Ms. Dresnok and Ms. Rickert, they helped foster my passion for learning. I would also like to thank my amazing family for supporting me!



"Dream big and dare to fail." – Norman Vaughan



Congratulations Class of 2024

Congratulations Windham Graduates! Modern Woodmen is proud to acknowledge your achievements. You've shown that hard work helps us all have more, do more and be more. Continue your success and making a positive impact on our community. Best wishes for a bright future!



I can help you plan for life. Let's talk.

Modern Woodmen of America Tim Graham, FIC

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REMAINING

ALPHABETICAL

JAYDN KIMBALL will be attending the University of New England to play softball and study animal behavior/ pre-vet. Throughout my high school career, I have participated in varsity softball as well as been a part of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honors Society. My favorite memories from WHS were made on the softball field playing the sport I love. I would like to thank every one of my teachers, coaches, and teammates especially Mrs. Petcher for being such an important part of my life not only in the classroom, but also outside of it. I would also like to say a



TO

big thank you to my family for all the love and support they have given me over the past 4 years. They continue to help me grow as a student, athlete, and person and I am where I am today because of each of them.

JINOI LI - will be enrolling at Boston College MCAS and will major in Chemistry. Throughout my high school career, I had participated in Track and Field and absolutely enjoyed the sport, additionally I'm also part of several clubs and organizations that are known nationally. Finally, I want to appreciate and thank my coaches and teachers for the efforts and time they have invested in me. I'm very fortunate to attend WHS and finally I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my entire high school journey.



You have made your community proud, graduates!





LILIAN NGUYEN - will be majoring in Biology with a pre-med track in college. Throughout my high school career, I have participated in various clubs. I have been the Student Rep for the School Board and BAC, President of the Latin Honors Society and Key Club, Vice President of my graduating class, and various other positions. Some of my favorite memories in high school have been my first homecoming after COVID, going to Italy, and bringing eggrolls for AP Chemistry. Overall, I feel blessed to have



had these opportunities and many more at Windham High School. I am grateful for my teachers, family, and friends who have supported me thus far. I am excited to build my experiences during college. Thank you!

LUCAS OLDERSHAW – is deciding between three colleges for next year: The University of Maine at Orono, The University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and the University of California Davis, where I plan to pursue a career in either conservation or architecture. During my time here, I most enjoyed participating in one-act festivals, outdoor track, and Scouts. I need to thank all the amazing teachers I've had these past few years, who've shown up with infectious good vibes, seeming excited to teach, and even on days when I didn't feel excited to learn.



OLIVIA SAUCIER - will be attending the University of Maine Honors College with a major in Psychology. Throughout high school, I have been a part of the Spanish Honors Society as well as the Social Justice League. I also participated in Varsity Cheer my senior year and was awarded the Most Improved award. A few of my favorite memories from the past four years have been going to prom with my closest friends and the field trip to Salem, Massachusetts. I would like to thank my teachers, coaches, and parents for all the support and encouragement they have



given me these past four years. Their dedication will continue to have a lasting impact on my life beyond high school and college.

CLAUDIA YURRITA - will be attending the University of Maine at Orono this fall with a major in nursing and a minor in Spanish. Throughout high school, I was the Vice President of the Spanish Honors Society, and I also partook in the Social Justice League, National Honor Society, the Unified Club and started the yoga club at WHS. I also got my 200hr yoga teacher certification and spent my time working as a yoga instructor. One of my favorite memories from WHS is definitely the Costa Rica immersion trip.



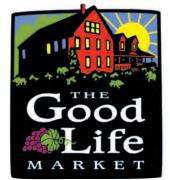
Thank you to all of my teachers and all of the administrators at WHS who helped and supported me along the way, I am filled with gratitude!

"Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." – Maya Angelou

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- ★ Patrick Barnicle
- ★ Mareena Batsungnern
- ★ Elizabeth Bearce
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- ★ Samuel Beckwith
- ★ Samantha Bell
- ★ Aiden Benish
- ★ Damon Benoit
- ★ Richard Biggs
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- ★ Komkan Bol
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- ★ Emily Bowman
- ★ Olivia Bowman
- ★ Madison Boynton
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- ★ Parker Campbell
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- ★ Kevin Alonso-Chavez

- \star Rachelle Cloutier
- ★ Dylan Coffin
- ★ Abigail Coleman
- ★ Anthony Cole
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- ★ Nevaeh Currier
- ★ Owen Dakin
- ★ Daniel Damron
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- ★ Login Desrochers
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- \star Gabriel Dunnam
- ★ Michael Dyer
- ★ Shawna Edwards
- ★ Evan Emerson
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- ★ Marlie Ennis
- ★ Nico Farinella
- ★ Kaitlyn Farrin
- ★ Addison Farris
- ★ Stella Feenstra
- ★ Alexandria Ferraioli
- ★ Aiden Foley
- ★ Logan Forbes



Today's graduates are tomorrow's leaders, and we're filled with hope and pride as the Class of 2024 celebrates this milestone achievement and takes the next step.

- ★ Ezra Foster
- ★ Oliver Frenette
- ★ Alexandra Funk
- ★ Kayden Gagnon
 ★ Jayden Garcia-
- Rivas
- ★ Trent Gately
- ★ Mackenzie Gaudet
- ★ Kaiden Gaudreau
- ★ Ethan Gemmell
- ★ Brooke Gerry
- ★ Danilo Gonzalez-Ramirez
- ★ Jacob Goslant
- ★ Ryanne Greene
- ★ Averi Grendell
- ★ Sophia Gugliuzza



★ Darrel Habiyambere

Page 11G

- ★ Khalysa Hammith
- ★ Brooke Hanrahan
- ★ Dylan Hanrahan
- ★ Reid Hansen
- ★ Aiden Hanson
- ★ Chloe Harmon
- ★ Jenna Harnden
- ★ Dylan Hartwell
- ★ Christian Harvey
- ★ Brady Harvie
- \star Husein Hashim
- ★ Mollie Haskell
- ★ Dylan Hayes
- ★ Savannah Heanssler
- ★ Jasmynne Heath

Mallory Muse,

Blake McPherson &

Abby Morneault...

CHFFRS TO

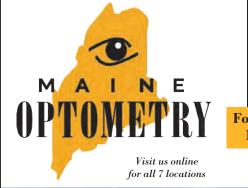
YOUR FUTURE





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- ★ Holly Hinkley
- ★ Ainslie Hougaz-**McCormick**
- ★ Gavin Howie
- ★ Deserae Hutchinson
- ★ Jordan Jean
- ★ Sarah John
- ★ Calvin Johnson
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- ★ Josiah Jordan
- ★ Nathan Jordan

- **★** Taylor Juhase
- ★ Chase Kennard
- ★ Samantha Kerr
- ★ Jaydn Kimball
- ★ Jacob Lanouette
- ★ Ralph Leavitt
- ★ Connor LeClerc
- ★ Monica Lewis
- ★ Jinqi Li
- ★ Tyler Libby
- ★ Quinton Lindsay
- ★ Abigail Lloyd
- ★ Ella Lombard

SAVANNAH

to celebrate! As you begin your college

come your way! Your future is bright. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

- ★ Jacob Lord
- ★ Lisha Luo
- ★ Rosario Lydon
- ★ Tyler MacKaye
- ★ Noah Mains
- ★ Cassidy Maldonado
- ★ Nicholas Marion
- ★ Jacob Marston
- ★ Alexander Mattox
- ★ Julia Mazerolle
- ★ Todd McAllister
- ★ Levi McDonald
- **★** Christopher McGowen



Congratulations RILEY SMALL!

We are so very proud of you & are confident your future will bring much success!

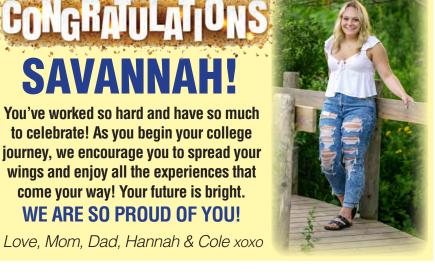
Love Yon,

CONGRATS, SHAMUS!

We are incredibly proud of all you have achieved! Your newfound love for writing, & playing music puts us in awe of you everyday. Then your passion for nature and science, particularly mycology, has truly amazed us over the past four years. We are thrilled for the journey ahead at Evergreen State College in Washington and all you will accomplish there! With love, Mom & Dad



WATCH OUT HUSSON!





the next chapter holds for you! Love, Mom, Dad, Keith, Kaila, Zoe, Moxie & Sox





PROUD of you Simon!

WE KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE **SUCCESSFUL** IN ALL THAT YOU DO!!



We love you so much, Mum, Dad, Ruben & Lüke***

You crushed High School! We know that you will achieve success in anything that you put your mind towards. We look forward to watching it all unfold. We hope you know that we will always be here for you, whenever you need support, or just need a hug. P.S. WE LOVE YOU!!!



- ★ Lillian McLean
- ★ Dakota McLeod
- ★ Blake McPherson
- ★ Jacob McPherson
- ★ Randi Merriman
- ★ Yusuf Michaels
- ★ Jackson Michaud
- ★ Caitlvn Miles
- ★ Daniel Mitchell
- ★ Rvlie Moblev
- ★ Griffin Moreau
- ★ Olivia Moreno
- \star Abby Morneault

- ***** Shamus Morrison
- ★ Dakota Moss
- ★ Mallory Muse
- **★** James Myrick
- ★ Sophia Nappi
- ★ Jaida Narvaez
- ★ Cole Newman
- ★ Frankie Newton
- **★** Lilian Nguyen
- ★ Athena Nicholas
- ★ Beni-Hallel Ninziza
- ★ Casie Nugent
- ★ Jacob O'Hara
- Class of 2024 Dear Owen, Keep setting goals and follow your dreams! Never lose sight of what makes you happy. LIVE LIFE, STAY KIND, AND IT IS WHAT IT IS! We love you – Mom, Dad, & Mo





BRANDON

Believe in yourself and your talents, you are ready for what the future holds for you! Love, Mom, Dad, Keith, Kaila, Zoe, Moxie & Sox



Jadua

2

Never forget that we love you. Always believe in

- ★ Casey OConnell
- ★ Lucas Oldershaw
- ★ Claira Parker
- ***** Tobias Perkins
- ***** Haiden Perry
- ★ Hannah Peterson
- ***** Aidan Poitras
- ★ Alexander Pooler
- ★ Polianna Popov

- ★ Malaya-Consuelo Ramos
- ★ Arianna Rathbone
- **★** Eleanor Reed
- ★ Rylee Remington
- **★** Aidan Rich
- **★** Jack Roark
- ★ Brayden Roberts
- **★** Gwen Rogers



We are so proud of you! Dream big! You have a bright future ahead of you. We will always be here cheering you on. Love you, Mom, Dad & Iyla

Congrats Ashlee Sawyer!

We cannot believe how the years have flown by. We are so proud of all that you have accomplished but even more proud of the person you have become. You are so kind, caring, loving, strong, determined, and hardworking. These qualities will lead you to an amazing future with much success! We cannot wait to see you grow in college and very excited to see all the great things in store for you! We love you!

GOOD LUCK AT Mom, Rick, Andrew USSOI & your entire family





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With love, your family

yourself and remember you are capable of achieving anything you put your mind to. Go forth and aim for the skies. YOU MAKE US SO **PROUD!**

Avery James Lytle **SUMMA CUM LAUDE AP SCHOLAR** Son, we promise to always support, and cheer you on as you continue to learn and grow. You make us proud. We love you!

GOOD LUCK AT VIRGINIA TECH STUDYING ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING! WE KNOW YOU WILL CRUSH IT!!!



Congratulations CLASS OF 2024!

- ★ Rylee Rundlett
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- ★ Theodore Sanborn
- ★ Olivia Saucier
- ★ Joshua Saunders
- ★ Sydney Savard
- ★ Ashlee Sawyer
- ★ Joshua Sawyer
- ★ Madison Sawyer
- **★** Cameron Schafer
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- ★ Hunter Simpson
- ★ Mckenna Sirois
- ★ Riley Small
- ★ Alastair Smith
- ★ Jacob Smith
- ★ Zachary Smith
- ★ Bryce Smyth
- ★ Ryan Smyth
- ★ Elijah Snow
- ★ Joseph Somma

- ★ Kaylei Souvannasing
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- ★ William Stuart
- ★ Grace Theriault
- ★ Savannah Thompson
- ★ Marcus Tillery
- ★ John Ulmer
- ★ Conner Vail
- ★ Briggs Valliere
- ★ Maya VanHise
- ★ Daniel Vella
- ★ Kailyn Webster
- ★ Brady White
- ★ Maggie Whiting
- ★ Lydia Wilson
- ★ Hope Winter
- ★ Dakota Woodall
- ★ Eliza Woodards
- ★ Shawn Yates
- ★ Claudia Yurrita

It Couldn't Be Done

By Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done, But he with a chuckle replied That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried. So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin On his face. If he worried, he hid it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing That couldn't be done, and he did it. Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that; At least no one ever has done it"; But he took off his coat and he took off his hat, And the first thing we knew he'd begun it. With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin, Without any doubting or quiddit, He started to sing as he tackled the thing That couldn't be done, and he did it. There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done, There are thousands to prophesy failure; There are thousands to point out to you one by one, The dangers that wait to assail you. But just buckle in with a bit of a grin, Just take off your coat and go to it; Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

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2024 BAXTER ACADEMY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE GRADUATES



- ★ Malakai Amero
- ★ Fiona Macie Brickel
- ★ Sophia Beth Vopal ★ Simeon Pillsbury

2024 CHEVERUS

HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATES

★ Jackson Kingsley

★ William Ray

★ Ava Lamkin ★ Avery Lytle ★ Georgia Nolan

Baxter Academy Technology and Science

- ★ Brandon Mank ***** Brian Mank
- ★ Liam Witten



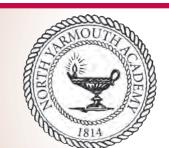
2024 WINDHAM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GRADUATES

Page 15G

★ Jordan Bemis

★ Isabella Johnson

***** Anna Seavey



2024 NORTH YARMOUTH ACADEMY GRADUATE

★ Caden Violette



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!

You have made this community proud and we wish you nothing but the best! **ENJOY YOUR BIG DAY!!**

Now, others will try to define it for you, but yours is the only

voice that matters." — Octavia Spencer

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BTI and Project Graduation team up to create a fun and memorable event for 2024 Windham graduates

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

Graduation is a huge milestone and a great reason to celebrate, as long as you do it the correct and safe way. Once again, Be The Influence (BTI) and Project Graduation are working together to create a fun, memorable, and most importantly safe, event for 2024 graduates.

Not only does this event celebrate launching the students onto their next

steps in life, it also helps students understand and support them in knowing that they can have a lot of fun using substances with their friends.

As the project director for Be The Influence (BTI), Patrice Leary-Forrey has the role of being the community connector for 12 different sectors, including RSU 14, government municipalities of Windham and Raymond, faith-based organizations, and other youth serving organizations as 12 different sectors have come together to support the work that Leary-Forrey does.

BTI is a federal-funded grant through the Drug Free Community (DFC) serving youth in sixth grade to 12th grade with a goal of providing prevention education in the community for youth and supporting the youth to live substance free lives. This involves prevention education in the classroom, offering community support for parents and youth, and low barrier opportunities for families to come together and have positive experiences.

Project Graduation launched in 1980 when seven alcohol and other drug-related teen deaths occurred in Oxford Hills during the beginning of the season. Led by the Drug and Alcohol Team of Oxford Hills (DA-TOH), schools in the area and local communities provided the Class of 1980 at Oxford Hills High School with information about the risks of drinking, drugging and driving. The seniors were offered an alternative to the 'traditional' graduation-night drinking event that drew hundreds of people to the local fairgrounds. They called this chemical-free party "Project Graduation."

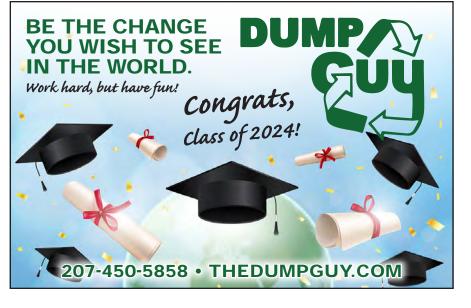
The purpose of Project Graduation is to give the graduates the opportunity to celebrate their success with their classmates, substance-free, and to come home safely to their families.

Project Graduation is a group of volunteers, most often parents, that come together and organize an evening post-graduation for the seniors around substance-free opportunities.

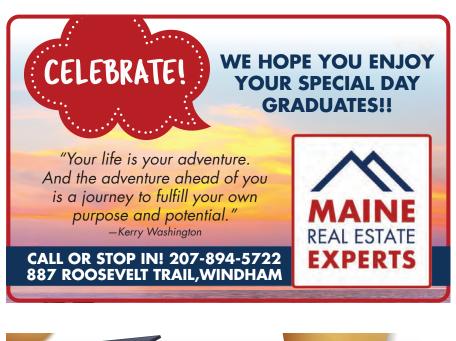
"In the past, this has been trips to Boston or other fun events where students can come together and have a good time without substances," says Leary-Forrey. "The goal is to provide

(Continued on next page)

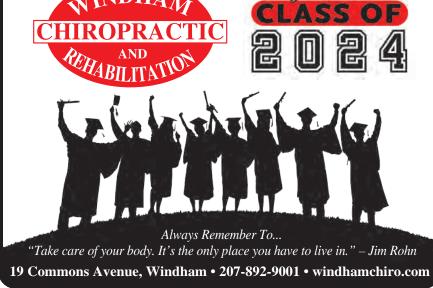












Congratulations GRADUATES: WELL DONE! May today's success be the beginning of tomorrows achievements.

We wish you well as you start the next chapter of your lives!

UND

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The Windham Eagle

(Continued from previous page)

students with a safe space and place for students to celebrate substance free."

Project Graduation works yearround to fundraise and support the effort.

"BTI supports Project Graduation

through providing 'swag bags' in which students can find a congratulations letter, a snack, a drink, a little activity if they're taking a bus somewhere to help promote unity and give students the opportunity to have one thing all in common for the evening," says Leary-Forrey. "For the event that the students will be embarking on this year, For clear bags, so we provided



this Project year's they needed to have Graduation event, students needed to have clear bags, transparent so Be The Influence provided bags for the venues transparent'swagbags' for the that the students will venues that the students are morning," be going to, allow- going to, allowing volunteers Leary-Forrey. "Proing the people who and others supporting the moting the event are volunteering and event to be able to see what from the side of the supporting the event the kids are carrying and community would to be able to see what support the experience for be very helpful and the kids are carry- them. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ing in supporting the experience for them."

This year, there is an astounding number of students who want to participate; higher than the number anticipated and that has been in the past.

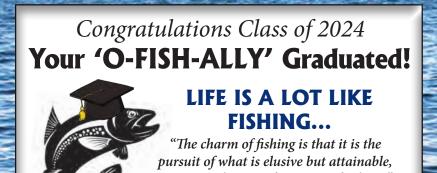
"I want to highlight that kids are choosing this opportunity, which

is remarkable and speaks volumes to the team that is putting the experience together," says Leary-Forrey.

While Leary-Forrey cannot reveal what and where the event will be this year, she makes it clear that it will be an event to remember, filled with tons of fun and memories that will last a lifetime.

"The students leave a few hours after graduation and return the next says highlighting the



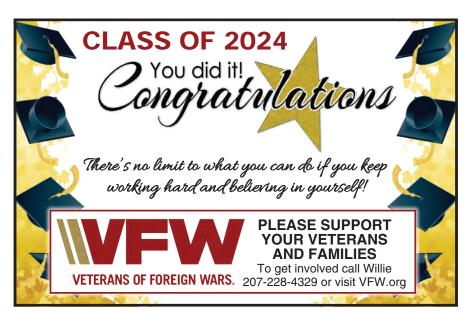


work that these parent volunteers do to make this event happen. It is no small task to organize 150 students to go on a big adventure together."

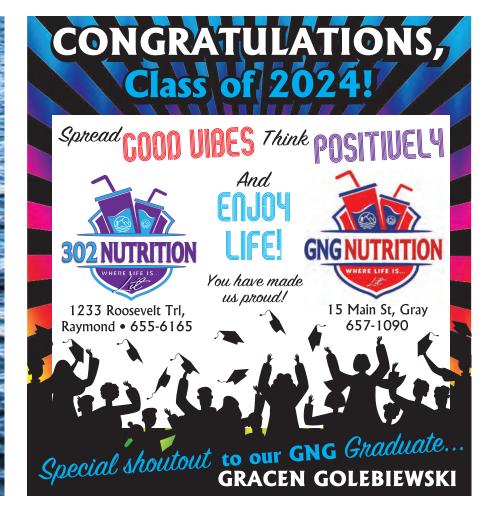
Not only is it important to highlight that this is a substance free event that the parent-volunteers organize, but that throughout the entire year, they put in so much hard work to make this one adventure happen for these students completely free of charge.

Leary-Forrey said a huge thank you goes out to parents, volunteers, students, donations, and all other funding sources that help make this happen. <











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Witnessing milestones: Parents seeing their kids graduate

Graduating from high school is a pivotal moment in a young person's life, symbolizing the culmination of years of hard work, growth, and perseverance. For parents, witnessing their child don the cap and gown and receive that long-anticipated diploma is an emotionally charged experience, blending pride, nostalgia, and anticipation for the future.

For many parents, high school graduation is a time of reflection. From the first day of kindergarten to this significant milestone, they have watched their children navigate the

ups and downs of their academic journey. Each stage, each challenge overcome, and each success achieved has contributed to this crowning moment. The memories of late-night homework sessions, school projects, extracurricular activities, and the myriad of emotions that come with adolescence flood back, creating a poignant collage of their child's educational path.

This event is not just about the student's achievement; it is also a testament to the parents' dedication and support. From early mornings ensuring their child catches the school bus, to attending countless parent-teacher meetings, and being the constant pillar of support through school's social and academic pressures, parents play an integral role in their child's journey. Their encouragement, sacrifices, and unwavering belief have often been the backbone of their child's success. Seeing their child walk across the stage validates all the time, effort, and love they have poured into their upbringing.

Graduation ceremonies themselves are steeped in tradition and symbolism. The ceremonial walk, the turning of the tassel, and the joyous throwing of caps into the air all signify the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. For parents, these rituals evoke a sense of closure and new beginnings. The formalities and speeches serve as a bridge between the past and the future, providing a moment for both parents and graduates



to contemplate what lies ahead.

The event is also a community experience, where parents share this milestone with other families. It fosters a sense of collective accomplishment and camaraderie. Parents exchange stories and reminisce

about their children's shared experiences, creating a bond that transcends the individual celebration. The sense of community reinforces the understanding that they have not been alone in this journey, but part of a larger network of support and shared experiences.

Looking forward, parents often experience a mix of emotions. Pride in their child's accomplishments is coupled with the bittersweet realization that their role is evolving. As their children prepare to enter college, the workforce, or other ventures, parents must learn to navigate a new dynamic in their relationship. The protective and guiding role they have played will shift towards one of mentorship and support from a distance.

Ultimately, witnessing their child's high school graduation is a profound experience for parents. It marks a significant life achievement and serves as a powerful reminder of the relentless march of time and the enduring bond between parent and child. As they celebrate this momentous occasion, parents look ahead with hope and excitement, eager to see where their children's newfound independence and dreams will take them. <

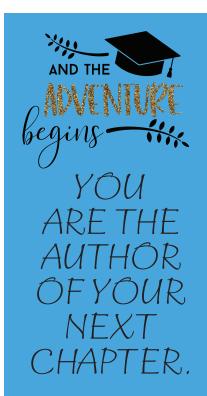
CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2024

YOU WORKED HARD. YOU PERSEVERED. YOU GRADUATED! We wish you happiness & success as you follow your dreams into the future.

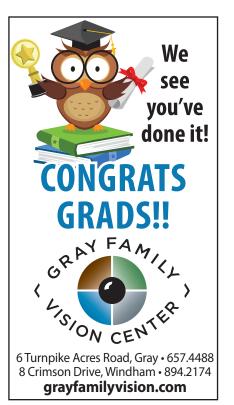
We would also like to recognize and say **TO THE TEACHERS AND FACULTY**

for their dedication, patience and selfless hours spent educating and guiding our youth to be the best they can be.

We also want to show appreciation to the many volunteers



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for their time spent on project graduation and other events. Lastly, thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends for their support of the students day in and day out.

From all of us at your favorite local weekly publication:



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Tips for how graduates can plan a fulfilling gap year

Many high school students tend to enjoy a few months of summer vacation after they graduate, and then embark on new adventures at college or trade school. Graduating college seniors follow a similar path of joining the workforce or beginning post-graduate work after earning their degrees. But such paths are not the only ones available to students. Some students may want to consider a gap year.

A gap year is a break from academia to pursue other interests or even experiential learning, according to Forbes. It's more than just a time to relax, and can prove especially helpful to self-development and discovery. If time and budget allows, taking a gap year can be a worthwhile and productive endeavor. Here are a few ideas and benefits relating to gap years.

• Hone skills: Some see a gap year as a chance to goof off or lounge around. Instead, this break provides an opportunity to sample the workforce and gain experience. Individuals can seek opportunities that will be relevant to the careers they intend to pursue in the future. A future certified public accountant, for example, may want to spend tax season working with an accounting firm to learn the ropes.

• Learn a language: Students may think a gap year is the perfect oppor-

tunity to become more proficient in a foreign language or two. Bilingualism can be a key advantage in one's job search and future career. Traveling to a country where a studied language is spoken and learning it while immersed in the culture can be a particularly effective means to acquiring language skills.

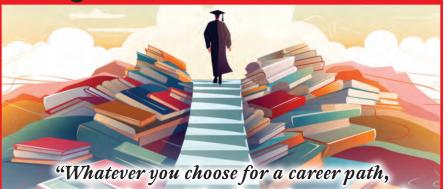
• Engage in a passion project: There are many projects that may be put on hold because of lack of time or resources while in school. A gap year can be the ideal time to write more or explore an innovative new business idea.

• Perform service work: A gap year can be an opportunity to engage in social change or to help a cause. Certain people may want to travel to underprivileged areas on humanitarian missions or teach English to students overseas. These are experiences that will promote personal growth and help boost a résumé when it comes time to find a job.

• Improve academic performance: A study by Colorado College's Gap Year Research Consortium reported that those who participate in gap years exceeded their predicted GPAs by roughly 0.15 points. A gap year may help a person become a better student.

• Land an internship: Some companies may want to extend internship

Congrats to the Class of 2024!



"Whatever you choose for a career path, remember the struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose." - Chadwick Boseman





offerings beyond the standard semester. Many professionals land their jobs through networking, so taking time away from school to participate in a lengthy internship can make for a smoother entry into that company should one want to work with them in the future.

Taking a gap year may not be the traditional route for students, but the benefits of time away from formal learning can be profound. <



"Let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." – John F. Kennedy



Any way you slice it, we couldn't be more proud of this year's graduating class! We know you'll go far, and we wish you much happiness and success. Thanks for being such outstanding students and citizens!



Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than fair: be kind. Do more than dream: work. - William Arthur Ward

We proudly recognize 'School Leadership Award & Commander Don Rogers Scholarship' WHS recipients: Delana Perkins & Alexander Potter

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Class of 2024 Best wishes as you continue to new heights of success.

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Editor.

There's a lot of talk about not having Town Meetings in person in Raymond, Well, we agree with not having them, due to the working people can't attend, and the voting hours work better for the working people. And also not having the town meetings certain people don't have a chance to fill the gym with their buddies.

Also, it's been mentioned that certain boards aren't getting information, but there are certain boards/committees that aren't willing to work with other boards/committees, it's like certain boards/committees think that only their opinions count, and they want to take control of everything.

Boards/committees need to work together, be adults, leave their egos at home. This Selectman election is important, you have one person, Joe Bruno, with experience, who has always worked well with others, has always put the town and it's residents first, and has always been open to listening to its residents, and opinions of all. Joe has kept Raymond going forward with the rest of the Selectboard, has kept the taxes lower than others around us, but the services and care for the town and residents has never wavered. Along with having experience, Joe understands the laws, laws of Freedom of Information, laws of what information can be discussed in public, or privately. Joe looks out for the Town of Raymond

as a whole, it doesn't matter if you are a R or a D or an I, Joe will sit down and talk with you,

We've lived in Raymond for 14 years now, doesn't matter where we see Joe Bruno, he's respectful, ask how you are, talks to you, and shows he cares about the residents of Raymond.

People should want a Selectman that cares and looks out for the town of Raymond as a whole, and continue to take Raymond forward, That person is, Joe Bruno, He's got our vote.

~ Julie C. Rockwell-Sutherland and John Russo, Raymond

Editor,

I am happy to heartily endorse Mark Cooper to become the next Representative of Maine House District 107 from Windham.

I became acquainted with Mark through my role as Treasurer of a small construction company here in Windham. Mark is always dependable, responsible, and considerate. When he needs our services, he is thoughtful by giving us adequate notice; and we know when he receives an invoice, it will certainly be paid in a timely fashion. His personable nature is another plus!

As a legislator, Mark will surely represent Windham well. He understands how regulations and laws affect individuals and small businesses and how the health of small business affects the quality of life for Maine families. He has been a small business owner for

many years, venturing in agriculture and building construction. He has held leadership positions in Cumberland Farmers Association, Maine Maple producers, Maine Miniature Horse Club, Maine Beef Producers Association, and others.

As a third-generation citizen of Windham, Mark and his wife Gaylene have raised two sons here and are now enjoying two grandchildren. Mark Cooper cares about Windham and her people and will be a strong voice in Augusta speaking for fiscal responsibility, best educational practices, and logical thinking.

- Glenn W. Meehan, Windham Editor,

I endorse Denis Morse for Raymond Selectman. I have known Denis for over 20 years, in business and personal ventures. He does the right thing, follows through on promises, → see LETTERS Page 16



Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to: editor@thewindhameagle.com

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→ LETTERS Cont. from page 15

and puts others first. He is committed to community, culture, commerce, and natural resources for Raymond.

Denis has a lifetime of service in Portland and Raymond, serving as a firefighter, Union President, and Fire Chief. The people he led benefited from his leadership.

Denis' roots are deep in Raymond, with three generations living in this town. He is committed to improving Raymond for future generations.

On the Budget Committee, he witnessed the inner workings of Raymond's current leadership. He will question the status quo and encourage



prudent decisions benefiting all residents.

As Selectman, Denis will be a positive voice for change. Raymond will benefit from his life experiences, background and knowledge.

Join me June 11 to vote for Denis Morse.

~ Steve Bortles, Raymond **Editor,**

The best Raymond news we've heard in a long time is that Denis Morse is running for a seat on the town's Select Board. Over the years, Denis has served the town in a number of capacities, most recently on the Budget-Finance Committee, where we've been impressed with his dedication, humor, expertise, and receptiveness. The budget process definitely benefits from Denis's long experience with town practices and facilities, but there's so much more to a vibrant town than its equipment or its mil rate or its credit standing.

All of that infrastructure supports-and is supported by--people: from residents to visitors to town employees. Dealing productively with people, especially those with competing goals, requires heart and compassion, as well as patience and unfailing ethics. These natural traits, in combination with his wellhoned negotiating and personnel skills, make Denis a very effective leader.

Not so long ago, the town enjoyed

spirited exchanges of ideas, especially at Town Meetings. Collaboration among the elected boards, the volunteer committees, and the town employees was energetic and energizing. Lately, though, the atmosphere doesn't seem as welcoming and open, which is discouraging and ultimately disengaging. To turn this around, we need approachable, open-minded folks like Denis in positions of town leadership. He'll be a superb Select Board member.

~ Dick and Laurie Forbes, Raymond Editor,

One of the best-known poems regarding death in war is the poem by Canadian doctor, soldier and poet John McCrae. During his service in World War I he experienced the horrors of war. He also noticed how quickly poppies grew on the graves of the dead. He composed "In Flanders Fields" after the death on the battlefield of a close friend. If you haven't read it recently it may well be worth returning to it.

This poem, along with crayons to color the drawing of a poppy on the reverse side, is what the Republicans participating in the Memorial Day parade were distributing to the children. Our intent was to educate the younger generation, and perhaps remind the rest of us, that Memorial Day is about those brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice in war.

~ Ingrid LeVasseur, Windham

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Varsity boys' tennis falls to Portland in preliminary playoff

By Matt Pascarella

The Windham varsity boys' tennis team was in ninth place going into their preliminary playoff match against eighth-place Portland on Friday, May 31 at Deering Oaks Park in Portland. Windham battled but lost 5-0 after every player gave their all. They finished the season with a 5-8 record.

"It's really just a good group of guys," said Windham assistant boys' tennis coach Andrew Wing. "It's rare all the guys aren't at a practice. They like to have fun together, but when it's time to do a drill, they take it seriously."

In the singles matches, Windham junior Zac Noonan fought hard, but lost 0-6 and 0-6. Sophomore Nolan McPhail lost 4-6 and 1-6, sophomore Carter Mathieu lost 3-6 and 4-6.

"We've improved a lot from the beginning," said Noonan. "Maybe it wasn't the best match today for a few of us ... our doubles have gotten a lot better with communication and knowing where to be; our singles have gotten better with trying to find each other's weaknesses and use those to get us better, to get consistent. We had fun and hustled while putting up a good fight; trying to adjust to different players' styles and different courts. We were ready to play our best and not [go easy] on them, and I think we did that."

In their first doubles match, juniors Brian Gilheany and Asher Knott forced a 10-point super tie-breaker where they came very close to getting the win after a 6-7 set and a 7-5 set win; they narrowly lost 8-10.



(L to R) Windham junior Zac Noonan returns a serve with force on Friday, May 31 during a preliminary tennis playoff match against Portland at Deering Oaks Park in Portland. Junior Brian Gilheany hits the ball. Sophomore Nolan McPhail hurries to make it to the ball in time for a save. Sophomore Padrick McGuire reaches up and sends the ball back over the net.. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

"We took the first and second set to a tiebreak and all of the points were really close; it was a really good match," said Gilheany. "We improved a lot and gave it our best shot today – I feel like it was pretty even. The hits were really good and the coordination between Asher and our plays were very well laid out. If we had played a little stronger in the beginning of the first set it could have changed things, but it was really close."

In its second doubles match, Windham sophomores Padrick McGuire and Nate Paulding lost 3-6 and 5-7.

"This year was a progress year, next year we'll be a team to be reckoned with," said McGuire. "We came together as a team and progressed together and next year we'll be practicing very well and playing very well. We knew they were a very good team; we weren't exactly confident, but we were prepared. We expected them to be very good, but we were also ready to play. Communication, and good sportsmanship went well."

In speaking with the players, they were pleased with their performance this season, saw improvements and are looking forward to next season.

"I'm very happy with how this season has turned out," said Windham boys' tennis head coach Garry Stone. "We started 0-4 then we won four in a row; it was really successful – we should do fairly well next year. These guys are resilient; they play hard, and it blows my mind how much they've improved this season. It's a credit to them ... Carter battled; I like both the doubles ... just the fact that they ... stayed with it. Zac battled like he always does, Nolan did well. I feel like one through seven they battled hard, and they really tried their best; I just look forward to next year, I think we're going to be a tough team to beat. I'm very proud of these guys, they all work hard and love playing tennis." <





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Windham outdoor track and field girls' and boys' teams showcase skills in state championship meet

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham High School's outdoor track and field team had a strong showing at the Class A State Championship in Saco on Saturday, June 1 at Thornton Academy. The girls squad finished seventh with a score of 44.5, and the boys team finished 18th overall with a score of 11.

Girls

Over the course of the 2024 season, the WHS girls' team set or reset seven school records.

"The Lady Eagles had much more within them to put towards that all important team score," said Windham girls' track and field coach Jeff Riddle. "Taking negatives which were in the way and outwitting them all day, overcoming the obstacles is what went well. We are proud of them for taking the risks to get out there on that championship stage to give their best."

Junior Tayla Pelletier was the state triple jump champion with a distance of 36-06.25 feet. She also finished second in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.36 seconds.

"I really wanted to defend my title of state champion and prove to myself I could do it," said Pelletier. "I'm proud of my progress and the whole team's progress and our commitment."

Senior Khalysa Hammith set a new Windham High School record in the long jump when she placed second with a 17-04.00 distance. In the 100dash she placed fifth with a time of 12.70.

"I put on a good mindset and just jumped," said Hammith. "I knew I was capable of it, so pretty much just putting that mindset together is what got me there. I was a little nervous going into it, but I took a deep breath and [set a personal record]. I'm proud of putting in hard work ... that's how I got to where I am today."



(L to R) Windham junior Tayla Pelletier soars over a hurdle on Saturday, June 1 at Thornton Academy in Saco during the state championship track and field meet. a better mentality this Senior Khalysa Hammith sails through the air in the high jump. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA week compared to last

In the 1600 racewalk, senior Jasmynne Heath finished fourth with a time of 10:15.99 minutes.

In the 800, senior Beth Bearce finished ninth with a time of 2:32.42.

Sophomore Addison Shanholtz finished 11th in the pole vault with a height of 7-06.00.

In the high jump, sophomores Kendra Eubanks and Nealie Morey jumped 4-08.00.

Junior Ava Gerrity placed 12th in the triple jump with a 32-10.00 distance. She placed 13th in the long jump, with a 15-06.25 distance.

In discus, junior Marina Schwarz threw 82-00.

The 4x400 relay team of junior Faith Dibiase, sophomore Emma Fox, sophomore Sydney Broadbent and Bearce finished 10th with a time of 4:25.37.

Bovs

"The boys really had some great performances throughout the season and capped it off with a strong state meet," said Windham boys' track and field coach Paula Pock. "I'm proud of this team, they were great fun to work with and I was thrilled of how they all set personal goals and most of them

Mason Rulman Age: 14 Team: Windham Middle School Baseball Coach: Matt Shardlow Parents' names: Ryan and Sarah Rulman Reason for selection: Mason understands what it means to be a student-athlete, compiling an overall GPA of 3.0 for the year and scoring the highest on a were able to achieve them."

The 4x800 relay team of freshman Mason Bragdon, sophomore Caleb Saucier, juniors Preston Stretch and Andrew Young had their best performance of the season with a time of 9:13.97.

"I'm really proud of everybody on the team, we had some really great results," said Young. "The team's gotten really close today, everybody's helping out each other. It means everything to be here; a lot of us have been at this since we were nine or 10 years old, to get here is really a great experience."

Junior Carter Engelman had a strong 110-hurdle performance for 11th place with a time of 15.92. Junior

Rory Good finished the hurdles in 14th place at 16.72. Earlier this season Engelman set a new school record in pole vault with a 13-7.00 height.

In the 100-dash, senior Marcus Tillery finished sixth with an 11.27 time - a personal best - and right behind him was sophomore Karl Longstreth with a time of 11.32.

"As a team we have week," said Longstreth.

"A lot of people last week were kind of upset the way they were running. I was upset because I had some hamstring things going on, but this week, we've had a really good practice all week, mentality's been there, people have been there, sportsmanship's been there; we've all been here and doing our best."

Senior Aiden Hanson finished seventh in the 300-hurdles with a 41.65 time, a personal best.

In the high jump, sophomores Mason Arbour and Nick Verrill finished 10th with a height of 5-8.00.

Arbour finished 12th in the triple jump with a 40-8.50 distance, a season-best for him. <



Juniors Rory Good (left) and Carter Engelman leap high during the 110-hurdles event.



hardest work ethics on the team. Mason brings full effort every day, whether it be in practice or in games. He shows significant leadership skills, both through his words and actions and the way he treats his teammates and conducts himself on the field. Mason is always trying to positively support teammates, add focus to the group and ask pertinent questions in an effort to improve.

pre-season baseball knowledge assessment given to the entire team. On the diamond, he has one of the





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Windham upsets Kennebunk in baseball playoff

By Matt Pascarella

Ranked 12, Windham varsity baseball traveled to fifth-place Kennebunk to face off in a preliminary playoff round against Kennebunk on Tuesday, June 4. Although Kennebunk jumped to a 2-0 lead in the third inning, Windham fought back to pull ahead in the sixth inning and secured a 3-2 win to advance to the next playoff round.

"This year the guys just believed in themselves more," said Windham varsity baseball coach Chris Doughty. "This year we knew how good we were from the beginning, and we kept believing in the process. We showed up ready to play today; the boys were fired up when we got here, stuck to our guns, executed, I think the moment wasn't too big for them, they were ready to compete all seven innings. [Windham] stayed honest to their approach ... at the plate, waited for their pitch, stayed deep in counts - kind of got ahead - when you get ahead in counts like that you give yourself the opportunity to really hit the ball hard and that's exactly what they did. Teamwork today was some of the best I've seen, the most together I've seen all season long, it's all you can ask for. Everybody in the lineup did something ... and competed across the board; it came together for us and obviously Cam Davis's big hit in the sixth inning, I don't think it gets any bigger a moment than that. If we play clean baseball like we played today, I'd put us up against any team in the league."

Defense on both sides was very strong as neither team scored in the first two innings. Kennebunk put two runs on the scoreboard in the third inning, but Windham only used this as motivation.

In the fourth inning, Windham junior Cayden McCartney singled; pinch runner senior Owen Dakin took his place at first base. Sophomore Wy-



(L to R) Windham players celebrate after they eliminated fifth-place Kennebunk in a preliminary prep baseball playoff game on Tuesday, June 4. Senior Cameron Davis celebrates with first base coach Robert Hamilton after Davis got a crucial hit in the sixth inning to put Windham ahead 3-2. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

att Washburn ripped a ground ball to center field. Junior Joshua Plummer reached first base on an error and Dakin scored.

In the fifth inning, Windham junior Grant Coppi singled. Senior Login Desrochers reached first after hitting a ground ball driving in Coppi and the game was tied, 2-2.

"This one was absolutely huge for us," said Desrochers. "We had a good week of practices. Nobody gave up on each other, we believe in each other, and we fought the whole way and came out victorious. Everything went well; we had so much energy, very good in the field, all-around great game from us. Everyone's been practicing hard, working on hitting and we just got it done tonight."

In the sixth inning, Washburn singled. Plummer grounded out and Washburn made it to third base. A line drive to third base by junior Cameron Davis scored Washburn and Windham led, 3-2.

"The coaches told me to load up early and see it," said Davis. "Let it come to me and get my hands up to it ... I loaded up early and put it over the third baseman's head. It felt great to get this win because last year we didn't do so hot in the first round, but this is the year, feeling good."

After WHS failed to score in the seventh inning, Windham pitcher Brady Harvie walked a runner. Quick hands by senior catcher Erik Bowen caught the Kennebunk runner headed to second base after Brady struck out the batter. He then induced a ground out and that was it.

"A lot of adrenaline up there on the mound," said Harvie, who had 10 strikeouts and only walked three. "It's exciting, a good spot to be in. I had a little extra drive in that [seventh] inning. It's just a great environment, feels nice to be pitching in a playoff game, [Kennebunk] is definitely a tough team, and we had to battle a lot and work through some tough spots. We got down two runs; usually when that happens, we tend to fall back, but our team kept pushing. I'd say our bats were really what kept us in this game; defense made some great plays and pretty solid game overall." <

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT – Town of Raymond, Maine –

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT June 20, 2024 at 5:30p.m.

at the Broadcast Studio 423 Webbs Mills Road

TO: Don McClellan, a resident of the Town of Raymond, in the County of Cumberland and State of Maine. GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Raymond, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the

Broadcast Studio at 423 Webbs Mills Road in said town on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 5:30PM, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 2 as set out below.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Raymond, Maine adopt the First Amendment to the Portland Natural Gas Transition System Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District, such adoption to be pursuant to the following findings, terms and provisions?

WHEREAS, the Town of Raymond (the "Town") is authorized pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, to amend previously established tax increment financing ("TIF") districts and development programs within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town designated the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District (the "District") and adopted a Development Program for the District on September 15, 1998 and March 20, 1999 in order to capture the value of real and personal property improvements made within the District and to enable the use of TIF revenues for various municipal and other economic development projects, which received approval from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development ("DECD") on March 31, 1999; and

WHEREAS, amending the Development Program for the District will help to continue to promote economic development within the Town and the surrounding region; improve and broaden the tax base of the Town; and improve the economy of the Town and the State of Maine; and, specifically, will allow the Town the ability to use TIF funds for costs associated with broadband and fiber optics expansion projects.; and **WHEREAS**, the Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on June 20, 2024, upon at least ten (10) days prior notice published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, on the question of adopting the First Amendment to the Development Program for the District in accordance with the requirements of 30 A M.R.S. § 5226; and

WHEREAS, the Town has considered the comments provided at the public hearing, both for and against the adoption of the First Amendment to the Development Program, if any; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that approval will be sought and obtained from DECD approving the First Amendment to the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program (the "First Amendment").

NOW, THEREFORE:

Section 1. The Town hereby adopts the First Amendment to the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program, pursuant to the following findings, terms, and provisions:

a. Pursuant to Title 30-A M.R.S. Section 5226(5) pertaining to TIF district and development program amendments, this First Amendment to the Development Program does not result in the District being out of compliance with any of the conditions of 30-A M.R.S. Section 5223(3) which pertain to the percentage of area within the District that is suitable for commercial use, the TIF acreage caps for single TIF districts and for all TIF districts in the Town, and the total TIF district valuation cap.

b. The First Amendment to the Development Program will make a contribution to the economic growth and well-being of the Town and the surrounding region, and will contribute to the betterment of the health, welfare and safety of the inhabitants of the Town, including a broadened and improved tax base and economic stimulus, and therefore constitutes a good and valid public purpose. The Town has considered all evidence, if any, presented to it at the required public hearing with regard to any adverse economic effect on or detriment to any existing business and has found and determined that such adverse economic effect on or detriment to any existing business, if any, is outweighed by the contribution expected to be made through the District and the Development Program.

Section 2. Pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Town hereby amends the District designated and described more particularly set forth in the "First Amendment to the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System Development and Tax Increment Financing District Development Program" presented to the Town Meeting in the form attached hereto and such Development Program is hereby incorporated by reference into this vote as the First Amendment to the Development Program for the District.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

TOWN OF RAYMOND, ME NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Thursday, June 20, 2024 5:30PM

at the Broadcast Studio, 423 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071

REGARDING

An amendment to the Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing ("TIF") District Development Program known as: "Portland Natural Gas Transmission System Municipal Development And Tax Increment Financing District " (First Amendment)

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed amendment to the TIF District, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended.

The proposed Amendment seeks to add an additional authorized project cost to the Development Program to allow the Town to use TIF funds for costs associated with broadband and fiber optics expansion projects.

All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard at that time. A copy of the materials relating to the Amendment will be on file at the Town Clerk's office prior to the public hearing and can also be obtained by calling the Town Clerk at 207-655-

4742 ext. 121, during normal business hours and requesting that a copy be mailed to you.

Section 3. The Town Manager, or duly appointed representative, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to submit the First Amendment to the Development Program to DECD for review and approval pursuant to the requirements of 30-A M.R.S. § 5226.

Section 4. The foregoing adoption of the First Amendment shall automatically become final and shall take full force and effect upon receipt by the Town of approval of the First Amendment by DECD, without requirement of any further action by the Town, the Select Board, or any other party.

Section 5. The Town Manager, or duly appointed representative, is hereby authorized and empowered, at their discretion, from time to time, to make such revisions to the documents related to the First Amendment they may deem reasonably necessary or convenient in order to facilitate the process for review and approval of the First Amendment by DECD, so long as such revisions are not inconsistent with these resolutions or the basic structure and intent of the Select Board in adopting the First Amendment.

Section 6. This Order shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The ZOOM link for the meeting is posted on calendar event at www.raymondmaine.org. Click on the meeting to find the ZOOM link and all available documents.

Public comments will be taken at the meeting and written comments should be submitted to Sue Look at sue. look@raymondmiane.org, NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. JUNE 19, 2024.



When you should use a buyer's agent in purchasing a home

By Lisa DiBiase SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



As we navigate the ever-changing real estate market, it's crucial to understand the importance of having buyer representation when purchasing a home,

- Lisa DiBiase, Broker/Owner Landing Real Estate regardless of mar-

ket conditions. Buying a home can be one of the most difficult and complicated purchases you make in your lifetime. Not only is the amount of money you're dealing with substantial, the complex legal aspects of real estate transactions can be confusing for those who don't work directly in the field. This is why many home buyers choose to use a buyer's agent when searching for a new home to purchase.

Step inside a real time testimony from my clients who are currently in the process of purchasing their first home:

"As first-time home buyers, we did a ton of research online. What we quickly realized is no amount of self research would have prepared us for the real market we faced, especially in today's market! We needed the expertise that comes from an agent's own experience. Lisa's guidance and connections have been instrumental in our home buying journey." – Chad and Will

Let's explore how and why it is so essential to have a Buyer's Agent:

To Start, what is a Buyer's Agent?

A buyer's agent is a real estate professional who represents the interests of the buyer in a real estate transaction. Unlike a listing agent, who represents the seller, a buyer's agent is solely dedicated to helping the buyer find and purchase a home. They have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the buyer, ensuring that their needs and concerns are prioritized throughout the transaction. This arrangement offers several benefits and can add significant value to the home-buying process.

Here are some key advantages of having buyer representation:

1. Professional and Expert Guidance: A buyer's agent has specialized training and knowledge of the real estate market, including current trends, pricing, and neighborhood insights. They can provide expert advice and help buyers make informed decisions.

2. Access to Listings: Buyer's agents have access to multiple listing services (MLS) and can provide buyers with detailed information about properties that match their criteria, including those that may not be widely advertised or are new to the market. An advantage for the buyer is real-time access to listings as soon as they become available through automated email alerts. This feature sends new listings directly to the buyer the instant a listing agent adds them to the MLS.

3. Negotiation Skills: Experienced buyer's agents are skilled negotiators who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. They advocate on behalf of the buyer to secure the best price and terms possible while leveraging their understanding of market trends, property values, and seller motivations. By understanding the details of the negotiation process, they can identify opportunities for concessions and expectations, potentially

saving the buyer money and setting the buyer's offer apart from others.

4. Market Analysis: Buyer's agents can perform a Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) to determine the fair market value of a property. This provides the ability for the buyer to make educated decisions and potentially avoid overpaying and ensures they are making a sound investment.

5. Transaction Management: The process of buying a home involves numerous steps, from making an offer to closing the deal. Each of these steps comes with its own set of paperwork, deadlines, and requirements. Managing all these elements can be overwhelming, especially for first-time buyers. A buyer's agent handles the transaction management, ensuring all paperwork is correctly completed and submitted on time. They keep track of deadlines and coordinate with other professionals involved in the process, such as mortgage brokers, home inspectors, and title attorneys. This comprehensive management helps

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 24

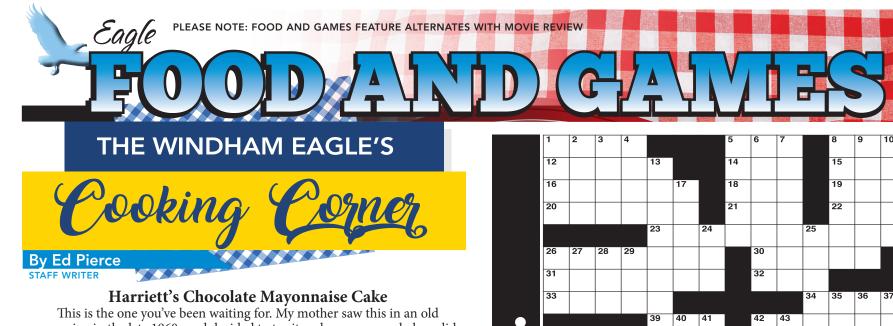




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magazine in the late 1960s and decided to try it and are we ever glad we did. From the very first bite, her Chocolate Mayonnaise cake was a smash hit, and more than six decades later, I can still recall how good it tasted. Making this cake recipe is basic and simple. It uses no eggs or shortening and requires no beating or creaming.

Yet this is without a doubt one of the moistest cakes that you'll ever eat, and your family will request you to make it for Sunday dessert or for special occasions over and over again.

INGREDIENTS

3 cups of unsifted flour 1 ¹/₂ cups of sugar 1/3 cup of cocoa 2 ¼ teaspoons of baking powder

1 ¹/₂ teaspoons of baking soda 1 ½ cups of mayonnaise 1 ¹/₂ cups of water 1 ¹/₂ teaspoons of vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

Grease two 9 by 1 ¹/₂-inch cake layer pans and line the bottoms with wax paper. Sift together all the dry ingredients into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the mayonnaise, then gradually stir in the water and the vanilla extract until the mix is smooth and blended.

Pour mix into cake pans and bake at 350 degrees in the oven for about 30 minutes or until the cake springs back when touched.

Let cool, remove from pans and then cover the top of the bottom layer with chocolate frosting.

Place the top layer on top of the bottom layer and cover the entire cake, top and sides with chocolate frosting.

> SERVING Cut and serve when sufficiently cooled. Serves eight.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Home of Iowa State University 34. Made a mistake
- 5. -fi (slang)
- 8. Mottled green and yellow fruit 42. Large N. American reindeer
- 12. Capable of thinking and
- expressing oneself clearly
- 14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
- 15. Midday
- 16. Kinsmen
- 18. Cable network
- 19. Simpleton

CROSSWORD PI

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- 20. Brunch beverage
- 21. Fed
- 22. European capital
- 23. Native inhabitants 26. Mechanical device
- 30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
- 31. Bedroom furnishing
- 32. The products of human
- creativity
- 33. Mass transit option

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who graduated
- 2. An inspired holy person
- 3. Electronic counter-
- countermeasures
- 4. A place to store things
- 5. Indian instrument
- 6. Spanish saloon 7. Whole number
- 8. Not fastened
- 9. Gives a boost
- 10. Lounges about
- 11. Interested in
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Type of sword
- 24. Naturally occurring solid material
- 25. Gets involved without being invited
- 26. Feline
- 27. Bobby ___, NHL champ

- 39. Sacred sound symbol
- 44. Dull and flat
- 46. Partner to huffing 47. Written works
- 49. Monetary unit of Serbia 50. Midway between east and southeast
- 51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
- 56. Widely used multiuser OS
- 57. Aggressive dog
- 58. Varnished
- 59. Hindu queen
- 60. Time units, abbr.
- 61. Farm animals
- 62. Capital of Latvia
- 63. Where golfers begin
- 64. Takes to civil court
- 28. "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
- 29. Hawaiian dish
- 35. Moroccan coastal region
- 36. Baseball statistic
- 37. Long period of time
- 38. Moved earth
- 40. Central Netherlands city
- 41. Take stock of
- 42. Central processing unit
- 43. Distinctive qualities one generates
- 44. Getting stuck
- 45. Loss of bodily movements
- 47. Veranda
- 48. Abrupt
- 49. What cats do
- 52. Expresses pleasure
- 53. Type of cheese
- 54. Professional STEM organization
- 55. Automatic data processing systems

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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A chimney can be one of the most used and popular features of a Maine home, but often overlooked when it comes to safety and regular maintenance. That's where Dirty Bristles Chimney Sweeps can share their expertise giving homeowners peace of mind and preventing dangerous fires.

Based in Bridgton, Dirty Bristles services all locations in the Lakes Region of Maine and surrounding areas and has been in business for more than a decade. A family operated business, company employees believe that chimney inspections are just as important as chimney cleanings and can help ensure that chimneys are in good condition and ready to use.

Along with sweeping chimneys and offering chimney safety inspections, the Dirty Bristles team installs and properly maintains all brands of gas, wood or pellet stoves and fireplaces.

"We install Class A chimney systems and stainless-steel liner systems," said Deb St. Cyr of Dirty Bristles Chimney Sweep, Inc. "We also install chimney caps and top dampers."

Other services available include removal of clogs or blockages, diagnostic testing to resolve problems, installation of replacement parts, real estate inspections of chimneys and stoves, camera inspections, and wood, gas, or pellet stove cleanings.

Working efficiently and cleaning up thoroughly afterward, Dirty Bristles provides exceptional customer service,

Dirty Bristles Chimney Sweep, Inc.

fair and affordable pricing and convenient scheduling for appointments.

"We always answer the phone and return all calls," St. Cyr said. "Everything we do is for the benefit of our custom- Father and son team, Jeff and inspections/services

their homes safer." Technicians Jeff COURTESY PHOTO

St. Cyr and Ethan St. Cyr bring with them over 15 years of certified chimney experience. Having been trained through the Chimney Safety Institute of America, Certified Chimney Professionals, National Fire Institute, and a wide variety of factory specific trainings for hearth specialty items, gives them the opportunity to offer the best range of services to the homeowner.

"Jeff will explain each step to take should your chimney require further work," St. Cyr said. "We are serious about your safety. We care about homeowner's safety. We see a lot of homes that need services, and they

areas properly. We Bristles have really noticed a deficit here in Maine in proper chimney

ers. Our mission is Ethan St. Cyr work diligently with new homes beto help people keep to keep your chimney free of ing bought and sold. debris and burning flawlessly. We continue to work

building relationships with local realtors in the area getting these things accomplished before sales are finished instead of going in after a sale and sharing bad news with a new homeowner. Maine recognizes the national NFPA 211 code, which states that a Level II inspection of all chimneys be a part of every real estate transfer." It is listed on the purchase and sale list of inspections to have, and listed on the home inspection report, however many are overlooked and not done."

According to St. Cyr, the quality of services provided by Dirty Bristles speak for themselves.

"We will never leave your home with debris or creosote," she said. "We use everything available in this field to properly clean and service your stoves and chimneys. Our reviews on our website and through square have been really great feedback."

A sampling of those reviews include:

"We just had our first visit from DB yesterday and wanted you to know how very, very pleased we were with your service. Your crew was on time, courteous, considerate, efficient, professional and thorough. We couldn't have asked for more. You guys are the *best!*" – Bonnie

"Thanks for servicing my wood stove" last Friday. The service was just what I wanted, the technicians explained everything and provided me the peace of mind knowing the stove is ready to face the upcoming winter. I look forward to doing business with you in the future, it's nice to know we have honest and a *reliable company available.*" – Charlie

"Great crew and polite and knowledgeable. Answered all questions. It was a pleasure doing business with *Dirty Bristles. Thank you!*" – Cheryl

"Personal, professional, lightning quick response time. This is the company that you wish all companies were like." – Cliff

For more information about scheduling an appointment with Dirty Bristles, call 207-803-8195 or visit them online at dirtybristles.com <



go ignored for years. If you are building a fire inside your home, please take the time to service those



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REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 21

prevent costly mistakes and delays.

6. Local Knowledge: Buyer's agents often have extensive knowledge about the local area beyond just property values. They can provide insights into the community, including information about market trends, schools, community amenities, future developments, and overall lifestyle. This local knowledge is particularly beneficial if you are moving to a new area and are not familiar with its characteristics. Having a better understanding of the neighborhood can assist you in selecting a home that fits your lifestyle and long-term needs.

7. Professional Network: Please do not underestimate the value of real estate professionals and the relationships that are established through working together on a daily basis. Real

estate transactions often require the involvement of various professionals, including mortgage brokers, home inspectors, contractors, and attorneys. Buyer's agents typically have a network of trusted professionals they can refer you to. This network ensures that you receive quality service from reliable experts, making the home-buying process smoother and more efficient.

8. Advocacy: A buyer's agent is legally obligated to act in the best interests of the buyer. This fiduciary duty ensures that the buyer's needs and concerns are prioritized throughout the transaction. There are many different fiduciary duties that an agent must uphold, including the duty of loyalty, confidentiality, disclosure, obedience, reasonable care and diligence and accounting. They must disclose all relevant information regarding the transaction and act with the utmost care and loyalty to the client.

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9. Peace of Mind: Having a professional on your side can reduce the stress and uncertainty of buying a home. Knowing that someone with expertise is handling the complexities of the transaction can provide peace of mind.

Overall, using a buyer's agent when purchasing a home offers numerous benefits, including expert guidance, market knowledge, skilled negotiation, and comprehensive transaction management. Their local insight, professional network, fiduciary responsibility, and cost efficiency make them an invaluable ally in the home-buying process. By enlisting the services of a buyer's agent, you can navigate the complexities of purchasing a home with confidence and ease, ensuring a successful and satisfying experience.

As I have said before, please call a

local REALTOR® for all your real estate needs no matter how big or small. We are trained professionals here to make your life easier. It's best to surround yourself with the right team of professionals that can continuously give you the right advice for all your circumstances.

This article was brought to you by Lisa DiBiase, the Broker/Owner for Landing Real Estate. She and her company represent buyers and sellers in the Greater Portland area and surrounding areas. For all your real estate needs contact Lisa at lisa@landinghomesmaine.com or call 207-775-SOLD. <

ATTENTION REAL ESTATE **PROFESSIONALS!** If you are interested in being a contributing columnist please call Melissa 207-894-3500 or email: melissa@ thewindhameagle.com





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